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LYDIA M. DAVEY/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Members of the Kuga Daiko Hozonkai group perform Saturday during the evening portion of Obon celebrations at Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, Japan. See more photos on Page 4.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Michael Jackson case: After testimony from a dozen key witnesses in the Michael Jackson child molestation case, the judge issued tentative rulings on evidence seized in a search of Jackson's Neverland estate.

Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville said Monday in Santa Maria, Calif., he was inclined to admit 39 pieces of evidence and is "concerned" about at least a dozen other items that he may order suppressed.

Abortion clinic bombing: A federal judge in Birmingham, Ala., on Monday gave attorneys for alleged serial bomber Eric Rudolph more time to draft a plan for fighting charges in a fatal attack on an abortion clinic.

U.S. District Judge Lynwood Smith gave Rudolph's legal team until Sept. 15 to reveal their defense against charges that Rudolph planted a bomb outside a Birmingham women's clinic on Jan. 29, 1998, killing a police officer and critically injuring a nurse.

Florida slayings: A grand jury has indicted four men for the grisly slayings of six people in a Florida home, and the state prosecutor planned to seek the death penalty.

The alleged ringleader, Troy Victorino, 27, and Robert Cannon, Michael Salas and Jerone Hunter, all 18, were charged with first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder, abuse of a dead body with a weapon and armed burglary. State Attorney John Tanner said he will seek the death penalty for all the defendants.

Police said the killings were the culmination of an argument between Victorino and one of the victims, Erin Belanger, 22, over an X-Box video game system and clothes owned by Victorino.

Porn HIV scare: A California state assemblyman has asked the adult entertainment industry of West Hollywood to adopt safe-sex measures or face the possibility of a law that would compel performers to use condoms.

Assemblyman Paul Koretz, chairman of the Labor and Employment Committee, said adult film stars should receive workplace health and safety protections like other Californians.

Koretz's comments follow a recent HIV scare that prompted producers to stop filming for a few weeks. Two actors tested positive for the virus.



Scott Peterson trial: Amber Frey, right, exits the courthouse Monday with her attorney Gloria Allred after the first day of cross-examination during the Scott Peterson double murder trial at the San Mateo County Superior Courthouse in Redwood City. Peterson is on trial for the murder of his wife, Laci, and their unborn child. Defense attorneys prodded Peterson's one-time mistress about wiretapped calls between her and the former fertilizer salesman, implying she did not fully cooperate with police. Defense attorney Mark Geragos also attempted to portray Frey as a calculated seductress and liar who was more obsessed with Peterson than he was with her.

World

Japanese troops attacked: Unidentified assailants fired a shell near Japan's base in southern Iraq on Tuesday, the third attack to rattle Japanese troops in as many days amid signs of deteriorating security in the region, the government said.

No injuries or damage were sustained in the explosion outside the Japanese camp in the Iraqi city of Samawah early Tuesday, Chief Cabinet spokesman Hiroyuki Hosoda told reporters.

The government was investigating the attack, said Hosoda.

Some 500 Japanese soldiers are based in Samawah, part of a total deployment of 1,000 military personnel on a noncombat mission to purify water and repair infrastructure.

Uzbekistan bombings: Uzbekistan's Supreme Court on Tuesday sentenced 15 al-Qaida-linked Islamic militants to as long as 18 years in prison for a series of bombings that killed at least 47 people earlier this year.

The trial, which opened July 26, was the first against those accused in a series of March and April explosions and assaults on police that killed 33 militants, 10 police and four bystanders.

Other trials are expected with dozens more suspects in custody.

Business

Union negotiations: US Airways' pilots union announced that negotiations on pay and benefit cuts broke down Monday, prompting the carrier's executives to ask that their latest proposal be taken directly to the union's leadership for a vote.

The collapse in talks underscores the friction between management and workers as the company seeks to secure \$800 million in cuts by the end of September to stave off its second bankruptcy filing in two years. But bringing the proposal to the union's executive council is likely to accelerate the contract process, said Standard & Poor's analyst Philip Baggaley.

Stories and photo from wire services

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Storm leaves Guam residents boiling water

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Despite drenching rains Tuesday, two days after Typhoon Chaba's ferocious eye barely missed Guam, water continues to be a precious commodity for the island's Navy housing residents.

Commander Naval Forces Marianas issued a "boil water" order Monday night — effective immediately — for Nimitz Hill military housing, the main Navy base and the naval magazine, said Lt. Arwen Consaul, a Navy spokeswoman.

Those areas also have low water pressure and no tap water between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. until further notice, Consaul said. The order affects about 922 housing units, including bachelor enlisted quarters, she said.

The order to boil drinking water went into effect after the Public Works Center turned the Navy's water treatment plant back on, Consaul said. The pumps were shut down Monday due to filter sediment buildup from Chaba's weeks of rain. The Navy closed some valves to Navy housing and the naval magazine Monday to conserve water, Consaul said.

Guam copter squadron saves tug crew

Sailors from Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 5, Guam, rescued six people from a partially submerged tugboat during Typhoon Chaba on Monday, 20 miles northwest of Saipan, according to a Naval Forces Marianas news release.

The helicopter crew set out while the area was under heightened warnings of dangerous weather after receiving a call from the Coast Guard at about 10 a.m.

When the three helicopter crewmen, two search and rescue swimmers and corpsman arrived, the 40-foot tug was waterlogged and facing 25- to 30-foot seas and 42 mph winds, the release said.

The tug crew members jumped into the sea when they saw the helicopter and the rescue swimmers hoisted them to safety. They were uninjured.

From staff reports

"Any time the pipes go dry, it's a good idea to boil water," she said, adding that testing whether the water is potable takes 24 hours.

Fena Reservoir, where Navy water comes from, was the coffee-colored Tuesday, Consaul said.

Water pressure is low because engineers are diverting about half of the Navy's water supply to refill its two depleted reserve tanks, each of which hold about 500 million gallons, the spokeswoman said. That's also why there's no water from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. "We're shutting off the water

to fill those tanks," she said. Some of the reserves were tapped into during the typhoon, leaving the tanks "so low" now, Consaul said. The water reserves are used for base firefighting, ship traffic and to supply on-island power plants. "If we go through another typhoon, that's what we live off," Consaul said.

Water pressure and the boil order likely will be in effect for about a week, until the reserve tanks are full, she said. In the meantime, base residents are being asked to save water.

"Don't go wash your car. Don't run the

dishwater. Don't leave water running when you're doing your dishes," Consaul said. "We're asking everyone to conserve water."

The Navy also temporarily has stopped supplying Guam Water Works with water, in effect shutting down water to some island villages.

"Our goal today is to hopefully get enough water pumping through our system that we can supply them with a partial amount," Consaul said Tuesday.

Despite the low water pressure and boil order, most Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities on the Navy base opened Tuesday. MWR restaurants and other eating establishments were using bottled water to prepare food, Consaul said.

Chaba approached to within 75 miles of Guam on Sunday night. According to the Pacific Daily News, the storm caused four storm-related injuries, some flooding and widespread power outages. Chaba since has turned into a super typhoon, packing maximum sustained winds of 180 mph with gusts to 220 mph. The Joint Typhoon Warning Center on its Web site, <https://metoc.nmcc.navy.mil/jtwc.html>, shows the storm tracking towards Kyoto, Japan, over the next four days.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svanjp@stripes.osd.mil

Teens put talents on display at Camp Zama technology fair

BY JULIANA GITTIER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP ZAMA, Japan — A dozen teens from Camp Zama and Atsugi Naval Air Facility displayed the claymation movies, animation, TV commercials and robots they've created this year during a technology fair Friday at the Zama Youth Center technology lab.

"The kids wanted a fair to show off what they've done all year," said Ervin Lawrence, technology lab instructor.

The fair allowed participants to display their projects and gave other kids a chance to learn about the club.

Through 4-H, a Department of Agriculture youth education program, Zama's Youth Center offers a technology lab to initiate youngsters into high technology. While 4-H often involves animal husbandry, the national group has a major technology component.

Most projects merge interactive art with science and technology. "It's an opportunity to learn technology, not just computers," Lawrence said. "That's why we're called a tech lab now, not a computer lab."

All year, the club created projects using computers, robotics, global positioning systems and art forms such as stop-action claymation.

Claymation uses technology and clay figures as well as illustrations to make movies. It's a fancy from the simple animation of famous 1950s television shows like the Gumby Show, Lawrence said.

"We do better than Gumby," he added. "It's really, really cool."

In one project, a clay dragon emerges from a cave and is attacked by a stick-figure drawing.

The club also uses Lego bricks



to create high-tech robots that can be programmed to react to touch, sound and other senses.

"It's a fun way to learn about robotics," Lawrence said.

He said he hopes the group can enter robotics competitions.

The GPS projects include treasure hunts and a game in which participants pretend they're attacked and run around to avoid incoming bombs. The GPS tells

them if they've been hit — a great way to get kids moving outdoors, Lawrence said.

And they use a Cartoon Network program called "Animate Your World" that lets students customize animation and add their voices to Cartoon Network characters.

"We're trying to get more people interested and involved," Lawrence said, "letting the general community see what we're about."



PHOTOS BY JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Left: Isaac Pope, 16, makes some adjustments to his Lego robot before Friday's Tech Fair at the Youth Center on Camp Zama. Top: From left, Sean Noah, 14, Marcus Sattler, 13 and Brittini Steele, 13, make adjustments and clay animals for a stop-motion animation movie on the computer. Above: Stephen Flowers, 12, programs his robot on the computer at the fair.

The group, which meets Tuesdays afternoons, is open to sixth-through 12th-graders. Lawrence said he plans to create a TV commercial every month, which they hope to play on American Forces Network television.

He said he also hopes to increase competitions and shows.

Call DSN 263-8573 for more information.

Juliana Gittier at: gittierjp@stripes.osd.mil

Yokota's Fussa Gate closed for upgrades

BY VINCE LITTLE

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Base officials closed Fussa Gate to vehicle traffic Tuesday as workers prepared to install new force-protection measures and reconfigure the entrance area in a bid to boost traffic flow.

The \$1.8 million project, paid for with U.S. funds, is expected to be completed by year's end. During construction, Yokota's main entrance will be open 24 hours a day to pedestrian traffic.

"This will enhance force protection and

allow the gate to be more functional and modern," said 1st Lt. Warren Comer, a 374th Airlift Wing spokesman. "We'll make it easier to get in and out of the base and also make it easier for security forces to do their jobs."

The renovations are aimed at upgrading security, easing traffic congestion and polishing the gate's overall appearance, said Col. Bill Story, 374th Mission Support Group commander. Similar improvements already have been made to the base's other gates.

The four-month closure won't affect

Yokota traffic significantly, Story predicted. Motorists who normally use Fussa Gate likely will use Terminal Gate, while East Gate also remains fully operational.

Guest drivers will continue obtaining vehicle passes at the Supply Gate from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. each weekday, said Maj. Scott Ulrich, 374th Security Forces Squadron commander. From 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., when Supply Gate is closed, those who will be processed at Terminal Gate.

Visitor's passes for those who walk onto the base will be issued around the clock at the Visitor Control Center inside Fussa

Gate.

"This closure will have little effect on base," Ulrich said. "It will improve security and streamline traffic flow — and make the gate more aesthetic."

The work also should provide improved visitor processing, said Raul Visera, chief of the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron's Civil Design Section.

The Fussa Gate construction is being performed by Taisei U-Lec Company Ltd., a local contractor, he said.

E-mail Vince Little at: little@spstripes.osd.mil



An occasion for the arts

Above: The group Miyamoto Shachuu performs "Umidori-no Uta," or "A Song of Seabirds," on kotos. The group was one of six that performed during the indoor portion of Saturday's Obon celebrations at Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, Japan. Right: Nobuko Nagai guides the hand of Gregory Velasquez, 2, as he paints the symbol for the word "peace," during the festival. Gregory's mother, Shauma, is at right.

PHOTOS BY LYDIA M. DAVEY
Courtesy of the U.S. Marines



Tokyo rejects Zushi City appeal

The Japanese government Monday turned down an appeal by Zushi City to retract a plan to expand the U.S. Navy's Ikego Housing Area near Yokosuka Naval Base.

A Yokohama Defense Facilities Administration Bureau official met with Zushi City Mayor Kazuyoshi Nagashima, telling him the plan cannot be called off, a Zushi City official said.

Zushi City submitted a letter addressed to the Defense Facilities Administration Agency's director general earlier this month, notifying him that the city will seek a legal decision if the government doesn't call off the plan to build additional housing at Ikego or doesn't respond by Monday. The mayor said the decision was regrettable and the city will determine whether to seek a legal decision after examining the response, the official said.

In July 2003, the Japanese government announced its plan to build 800 additional housing units in Ikego, which will replace the housing lost when four Navy facilities in Yokohama are returned to Japanese control. The housing area, near Yokosuka Naval Base in Kanagawa Prefecture, comprises 717 acres of land lying in Zushi and Yokohama cities.

Zushi City claims the government is breaking a 1994 promise, with the government and Kanagawa Prefecture not to build additional facilities. However, the government said the additional housing will be built on the Yokohama side of the housing area and does not break the promise.

Sasebo man accused of assaulting sailor

A Sasebo city man, accused of touching a female petty officer's breasts as she was on patrol, remained in police custody Tuesday afternoon.

Yoshiharu Minami, 57, has denied the accusation; police said he was drunk when arrested Sunday night. His case was referred to the Sasebo District Public Prosecutors Office on Tuesday, a Sasebo police spokesman said.

Minami is accused of assaulting the 23-year-old servicemember at about 2:40 p.m. in Shimano Town Arcade, the spokesman said.

The sailor, attached to Sasebo Naval Base, was conducting a patrol with her supervisor when the man touched her breasts as he walked by. She and the supervisor reported the incident to city police, who later found Minami and questioned him, the spokesman said.

From staff reports

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Abuse report lays blame on DOD leadership

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. soldiers running the Abu Ghraib prison are mainly to blame for the inmate abuses there, but fault also lies with the Pentagon's most senior civilian and military officials, according to a report released Tuesday by an independent panel of civilian defense experts.

Senior leaders did not establish clear guidelines on permissible techniques for prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib and elsewhere in Iraq, the report said.

High-level commanders failed

to shift resources to an understaffed and ill-trained prison detention unit once it became apparent that the system was out of control, the report said.

The findings were presented at a Pentagon news conference by James Schlesinger, the former secretary of defense who headed a four-person commission created last May by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. "There was chaos at Abu Ghraib," Schlesinger said, and it was due in part to the fact that the prison was a regular target of shelling by an Iraqi insurgency not adequately anticipated by U.S. leaders.

"There was direct responsibility

See related story on Page 6

for those activities on the part of the commanders on the scene up to the brigade level, because they did not adequately supervise what was going on at Abu Ghraib," Schlesinger said. "There was indirect responsibility at higher levels, in that the weaknesses at Abu Ghraib were well-known and that corrective action could have been taken."

He said Rumsfeld's office could be faulted for inadequate supervision, but he strongly objected to

the suggestion that Rumsfeld should step down from his post.

"His resignation would be a boon to all of America's enemies," Schlesinger said.

Asked later about the culpability of senior military commanders, Schlesinger said "they were not focused on the detention operations," but even so they should not be forced to resign or be punished.

He referred specifically to Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, who was the top U.S. commander in Iraq during the period in question.

The mistreatment of prisoners, described by the commission as

"acts of brutality and purposeless sadism," would have been avoided with proper training, leadership and oversight, it said.

In most cases, the abuse was not carried out with the purpose of achieving intelligence from prisoners, he said.

The report did not suggest that Rumsfeld ordered any of the abuses or did anything to encourage them. But it indicated that his policies created some confusion at lower levels of the military.

The commission was particularly critical of Sanchez and other commanders. It concluded that he "failed to ensure proper staff oversight" of detention and interrogation operations.



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Judge refuses to order Rumsfeld to talk

Also rules intelligence officers may have to testify in Abu Ghraib case, unless charged

BY DAVID RISING

The Associated Press

MANNHEIM, Germany — A U.S. military judge hearing the Abu Ghraib prison abuse case refused Tuesday to order Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to talk to lawyers about prisoner interrogation policy, but suggested he may force key military intelligence officers to testify unless the government charges them.

The ruling on the officers opened the door to broadening the scope of the scandal beyond the 372nd Military Police Company, a U.S. Army Reserve unit to which all soldiers charged so far were assigned.

Chief prosecutor Maj. Michael Holly told the court two low-ranking soldiers from a military intelligence unit who "we believe are co-conspirators" would probably be charged soon.

Six military police are facing charges of mistreating prisoners at the Baghdad jail. A seventh, Spc. Jeremy C. Svits, pleaded guilty May 19 and was sentenced to a year in prison.

On Tuesday, a lawyer for Staff Sgt. Ivan L. "Chip" Frederick said his client would also plead guilty to some charges. Frederick had decided to do the "honest and dignified thing" and hoped others in the group would step forward, lawyer Gary Myers said outside the courtroom.

"He's taking responsibility for certain acts," Myers said, adding that an agreement had been reached with prosecutors to drop other charges against him at a hearing on Oct. 20 in Baghdad. He refused to elaborate, saying, "There's always the possibility something will change."

Frederick is charged with mistreating detainees, conspiracy to mistreat detainees, dereliction of duty and committing an indecent act.

Attorneys for Spc. Javal Davis demanded that Rumsfeld and his deputy Stephen Cambone submit to an interview, claiming Rumsfeld had signed a 2002 memo authorizing the use of dogs, nudity,

physical contact and isolation against prisoners at the U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Judge Col. James Pohl rejected a request, but said the motion may be brought back if the defense can fill some of the gaps between the accusations against Davis and Rumsfeld's alleged policy.

"There's got to be some links in that chain," Pohl said. "I'm not saying there is not a link. I'm saying at this point you haven't shown me sufficient evidence."

Davis and the five other military police facing charges of abusing prisoners at the Baghdad prison insist they were following orders from military intelligence officers and civilian contractors.

Davis' civilian attorney, Paul Bergin, asked the court to grant immunity from prosecution to Col. Thomas Pappas, the military intelligence commander at Abu Ghraib, and several other officers who may have known of the abuse but have refused to talk to investigators citing their right to avoid self-incrimination.

The testimony would broaden the case beyond the reservists and raise the possibility that intelligence officers and others within the military encouraged the abuse to gain information about Iraqi insurgents battling U.S. troops.

But prosecutors argued they might charge the officers after the military completes a report on the role of military intelligence facilities that is expected to be presented to U.S. Congress early next month, which could be made difficult if they were given immunity.

Pohl gave the prosecution until Sept. 17 to convince him that they should not be compelled to testify. He made it clear, however, that if the government does not intend to file major charges against the officers by then, he would probably grant them immunity to testify.

"This would appear to be critical information to the defendants — that this was condoned by the higher-ups," Pohl told the prosecutors. "You know where this is going — it's either pay me now or

pay me later."

The judge said he also would have Reserve Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, the military police commander at Abu Ghraib at the time of the alleged abuse, compelled to testify at the upcoming courts martial. In the second day of pretri-

al hearings of four defendants at a U.S. military barracks in Germany, Davis admitted that he initially lied to a military investigator by saying he did not take part in maltreatment.

Davis said he was exhausted after a grueling day manning a

watchtower and made the false statement because he wanted the Jan. 14 interview to end. He said he went back to investigators the next day and confessed.

"I was dishonest about the things I was accused of," Davis told the hearing. "I wanted to maintain my integrity."

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U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ivan L. Frederick and his wife, Martha, talk to the media Tuesday in front of the U.S. military court at Taylor Barracks in Mannheim, Germany, where Frederick and another soldier charged with abusing Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad had their pretrial hearings.



Salim Ahmed Hamdan, a 34-year-old Yemeni, formally was charged Tuesday in Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba, with conspiracy as an al-Qaida member to commit war crimes.

Bin Laden driver charged with conspiracy at Gitmo

BY PAISLEY DODDS

The Associated Press

GUANTANAMO BAY
NAVAL BASE, Cuba — Osama bin Laden's chauffeur was formally charged Tuesday before the first U.S. military commissions since World War II, appearing at a pretrial hearing as his defense lawyer challenged the legality of the hearings.

Salim Ahmed Hamdan, a 34-year-old Yemeni, said he earned a pittance for his family as bin Laden's driver prior to the Sept. 11 attacks, but he has denied involvement in terrorism.

U.S. officials allege he served as the al-Qaida leader's bodyguard and delivered weapons to his operatives. Hamdan was charged with conspiracy as an al-Qaida member to commit war crimes, including attacking civilians and civilian targets, murder, destroying property and terrorism.

The hearing marked the first such tribunal proceedings since World War II. The five-member commission allows for secret evidence and no federal appeals.

"This process goes against everything that we fought for in the history of the United States," Hamdan's attorney, Lt. Cmdr. Charlie Swift, said earlier in the week.

Hamdan could choose not to enter a plea. Swift has filed a lawsuit in U.S. civilian courts that is to be heard in Washington, D.C., alleging the commissions violate U.S. and international law.

"Mr. Hamdan has languished in solitary confinement without good cause for more than eight months awaiting a hearing," Swift said in his statement. Hamdan was among six prisoners designated for commissions being held in isolation cells.

Swift contends Hamdan was a pilgrim who took a job at bin Laden's farm on his way to Tajikistan in 1996 or 1997, that he had no knowledge of bin Laden's activities and he never took up arms against the United States.

According to court documents, Hamdan complained he was "going crazy" in solitary confinement. "I have not been per-

mited to see the sun or hear other people outside ... or talk with other people. I am alone except for a guard," Hamdan said in February in an affidavit. "One month is like a year here. I have considered pleading guilty in order to get out of here," Hamdan said after two months in solitary.

Before his transfer to Guantanamo, Hamdan was held for six months in U.S. custody in Afghanistan. There, he said he was beaten, forced to lie still for days, dressed in overalls in freezing temperatures and shown a gun while being threatened with death and torture.

The Pentagon, in a charge sheet, alleged Hamdan, who is also known as Saqr al Jaddawi, was bin Laden's driver and bodyguard between February 1996 and Nov. 24, 2001.

The Pentagon also alleged he transported weapons to al-Qaida operatives, trained at an al-Qaida camp and drove in convoys that carried bin Laden. It does not say he took part in any specific acts of violence or participated in planning any attacks.

U.S. official: 3 held as vigilantes treated well in Afghanistan

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — There is no evidence to support claims that three Americans that they were severely beaten in jail since their arrest on charges they kidnapped Afghans as part of a freelance counterterrorism operation, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

"They are being treated well," said the official, who spoke on condition he not be further identified.

U.S. consular officials have met with the defendants, Jonathan "Jack" Idema, Edward Caraballo and Brent Bennett, and the American official said there was no evidence that the men were beaten.

The three face up to 20 years in jail if convicted on charges of torture and kidnapping. They were arrested July 5 when authorities freed about a dozen Afghan men being held at a private jail. The men were allegedly tortured using boiling water, and much of the abuse was apparently videotaped.

Idema, a former U.S. soldier with a checkered past that includes a stint in federal prison for fraud, denies he tortured anyone and claims he was working with the approval of the Pentagon and senior Afghan authorities. Videos of the alleged torture have not been played in court.

The American official said there is nothin-

ing to Idema's claim that he was working for the government.

"I can find no evidence whatsoever that Jack worked for us or was doing anything with the U.S. government," he said.

On Monday, Caraballo, a New York City native, came to court walking with a limp and on crutches, and displayed large bruises on the bottom of one of his feet. Idema charged in court that his co-defendant had been beaten.

Caraballo's lawyer, Michael Skibbie, said only that he was "not in a position to comment" on how his client got the injuries. Idema also claims that he was severely beaten in his initial days in custody.

The American official said the U.S. Embassy in Kabul wants to make sure the trial is conducted fairly, but also recognizes the right of Afghanistan to pursue a case.

"Our embassy is watching closely and we should be able to provide them with the influence it," he said. "The charges leveled are very serious charges about serious crimes," he said.

The U.S. military has described Idema as a freelancer with no connections to it whatsoever. However, it has acknowledged receiving a prisoner from his crew and holding the man for about two months. The subject subsequently been released.

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Najaf residents feel trapped as battle rages

BY ABDUL HUSSEIN AL-OBEIDI

The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — For nearly three weeks, Amer al-Jamali hasn't been able to go to work. He cannot visit his father, find medication for his diabetic children or even sleep on his roof to escape the city's suffocating heat made worse by power outages.

The fighting between a Shiite militia and U.S. and Iraqi forces has scarred this holy city, killed scores of civilians, driven many families and pilgrims away and choked the city's economy.

"We're simple people. We just want to be able to go to work and come back home," said al-Jamali, a mechanic. "I don't know to whom I should complain. I just complain to God."

Al-Jamali spoke over the crackle of gunfire that has become a grim yet common soundtrack to many conversations here. Streets in Najaf are dotted with other reminders of the violence: Knocked down power poles. Carcasses of charred cars. Pockmarked doors and crumbling walls.

Al-Jamali lives in the Old City, hundreds of yards from the Imam Ali Shrine compound where Mahdi Army militiamen loyal to rebel cleric Muqtada al-Sadr have been holed up for weeks. Most of his neighbors fled their homes and moved in with relatives or friends in quieter areas or even left the city. Al-Jamali has nowhere else to go.

The fighting has confined his wife and two daughters to their home. The clashes have gutted some stores and forced others to close, so now al-Jamali cannot find any



Civilians raise their hands Monday as they attempt to cross an area where Mahdi fighters loyal to Muqtada al-Sadr clash with U.S. and Iraqi forces in fierce battles in the besieged city of Najaf, Iraq.

open pharmacies to buy medicine for his sick children. Food prices have shot up. He and his family exist on a diet of bread, eggplant and potatoes.

When the rattle of gunfire and thuds of explosions echo through the city, al-Jamali's 12-year-old son, Mohammed, covers his ears with his hands. The fighting has made it too dangerous to sleep outside. And al-Jamali's whole neighborhood has

been swathed in darkness since the latest bout of violence broke out Aug. 5.

It's even worse for those living closer to the shrine area, such as al-Jamali's father. There, venturing out means braving sniper bullets from both sides.

"The Old City has become an off-limits area. No one can go in," al-Jamali said. "We fear we would get killed."

Many civilians have been caught in the

crossfire. Mortar rounds launched by inexperienced Mahdi Army fighters sometimes go astray, hitting homes. U.S. troops and warplanes firing at fighters in residential areas also have killed civilians.

Taher Mohammed, 35, said a fire that erupted in the first days of the clashes destroyed his electrical appliances store along with many others. He hadn't even finished paying for the merchandise that was lost, he said.

"If the situation continues, I have no idea how I am going to get by," he lamented.

Like many here, Mohammed and al-Jamali have been reduced to borrowing money from relatives to put food on the table.

After Saddam Hussein's ouster last year, Najaf emerged as a hub for spirituality and a seat for the newfound power of the country's Shiite majority. Pilgrims poured into the city to visit the shrine, one of the most sacred Shiite sites. They flocked to the city's vast cemetery, where many seek a burial spot so their bodies can be close to the remains of Imam Ali, cousin and son-in-law of Islam's 7th-century Prophet Muhammad.

Now the violence — a resurgence of an al-Sadr uprising in the spring that was dormant for about two months following a series of truces — has stalled Najaf's burgeoning spiritual renaissance and turned the cemetery into a bloody battlefield, preventing families from visiting their dead.

So far, both peace negotiations and tough talk from government officials threatening to raid the compound have failed to bring peace to this troubled city. On Tuesday, officials again warned that a raid was imminent.

A uniquely American tribute

Inscribed baseballs honor the servicemembers killed in Iraq war

BY DENISE LAVOIE

The Associated Press

WHITMAN, Mass. — The baseballs are lined up neatly, row after row, each in its own glass cubbyhole.

At first glance, the display at Whitman Town Park looks like a trophy case, but a closer look reveals a more somber tribute: "Sgt. Michael L. Tosto, 6-17-03," "Pfc. Jason C. Ludlam, 3-19-04," "Sgt. Darrin K. Potter, 9-29-03."

A memorial to the soldiers killed in the war in Iraq, the display is housed in a simple glass case 16 feet long and 6 feet high and stands just off the field of play on a ballfield in this suburb about 25 miles south of Boston.

Little League coaches here started their tribute in April by dedicating every game to a fallen soldier. But as the casualties in Iraq multiplied, they realized the current crop of Little Leaguers would be well into high school before they completed their tribute.

Chris Johnson, president of the Whitman Baseball and Softball Association, thought of writing each name on a baseball and displaying them in a glass case.

As word spread, people near and far began offering help.

Rawlings Sporting Goods donated hundreds of baseballs, volunteers offered to help build the display case and townspeople planted shrubs around the memorial.

"I'd walk down the hallways at work and people would hand me \$20," said Johnson, an electrician at The Boston Globe. "The support we received from people was unbelievable."

Don Rice, a Vietnam-era veteran and friend, helped Johnson verify and write the names of the soldiers on baseballs. Rice, a tool salesman, said some of his cus-

"When you hear about where they lived, how old they were, and what they were like, it gets to you."

Don Rice

A Vietnam-era veteran who helped write names on the baseballs

tomers gave him blank checks when they heard about the wall. The Whitman Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 697, donated \$3,000 to pay for construction materials.

The outpouring has been touching for Johnson and Rice. But what really gets to them is when they hear from the families of fallen soldiers.

"I had one lady from Texas call me," Rice said. "It was her only son."

"When you hear about where they lived, how old they were, and what they were like, it gets to you," he said. "Not long ago, they were right here on Little League fields just like this one."

When construction began on the memorial in the spring, Johnson thought the 900 nooks in the original memorial would be more than enough to display a ball for each soldier.

But as the months went by, it became clear that the memorial would have to be expanded. Two more cases were built, each with nooks for another 450 baseballs. Rice hopes the new cases will be the last. But they will extend the memorial again if necessary.

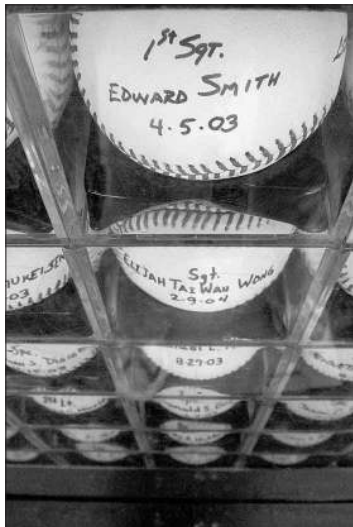
"If we have to go all around the field, we will," Rice said. "It's always on my mind — when will it end?"

As of Monday, 958 U.S. servicemembers had died in Iraq.

Johnson said the memorial was not intended to express any anti-war sentiment or to make any statement about the war. The baseballs will be sent to the families of the soldiers after the war ends.

Steven Brazier, 12, stopped to look at the wall with a friend Sunday before practicing for a tournament next week in Cooperstown, N.Y.

"I just hope that no other balls have to go up there," Brazier said.



Baseballs inscribed with the names of fallen U.S. troops are displayed Sunday in Whitman, Mass., in a memorial to the more than 900 servicemembers killed in the war in Iraq.

Hagee seeks expanded at-sea combat staging

Navy, Marines developing strategy to place forces in war zone without using other nations

BY CARLOS BONGIOANNI
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps is developing plans to strike in force deep within war zones without having to use other countries as staging areas, as happened in Kuwait prior to the invasion of Iraq, the Corps' commander, Gen. Michael W. Hagee, says.

Speaking at the National Press Club in Washington, Hagee recapped what the Marine Corps has done the past few years in the global war against terror. He also outlined the role the Corps will play in years to come. Just over a year after the November 2001 operations in Afghanistan, some 10,000 Marines and sailors from ships in the Persian Gulf, went ashore in Kuwait to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In the future, "we want to be able to do that operation without having Kuwait" as a staging area, said Hagee. "Can we do that today? No. Can we do it in the future? We believe so."

A key strategy the Navy and Marine Corps are trying to develop, Hagee said, is the ability to place forces deep within

enemy territory, within 10 to 12 days — up to 15,000 Marines with all the equipment and logistical support needed to sustain combat operations.

In past wars, he noted, the strategy was to get a foothold on an island or peninsula and then build a "gigantic mound" of supplies and logistics. "We don't want to do that anymore," the general said. "We want that to remain at sea."

The arrival and assembly of Marines, their equipment and supplies would occur aboard ships at sea and then there would be "selective off-loads" from sea to specific sites ashore.

A smaller version of the concept worked well in Afghanistan, Hagee noted. Two months after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, he said the Marines were the only force ready to launch a large-scale ground attack from inside Afghanistan against Tal-

iban and al-Qaida forces.

"We projected combat power 400 miles," to get some 4,000 Marines aboard ships in the Arabian Sea ashore inside landlocked Afghanistan, Hagee recounted. "Prior to that, our doctrine said we could project power ashore from the sea only about 200 nautical miles."

Hagee said one of his major concerns as commander of the Marine Corps is providing the capabilities that joint-force combat commanders need, "much more rapidly than we can today."

To beef up capabilities, the Navy and Marine Corps have, over the past few years, developed expeditionary strike groups, Hagee said. These are the old amphibious ready groups and Marine expeditionary units, but they have added destroyers and cruisers, as well as a submarine. The entire group trains together and deploys together.

"The combatant commander likes them a great deal. ... They bring more strike capability and additional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities. They come as a complete package, and he can use them wherever he wants."

But one problem with the strike groups,

especially those deploying from the West Coast, is it takes up to 45 days to get to Central Command's area of operation in the Arabian Sea or Persian Gulf. And it takes another 45 days to return home.

"That's over a third of the time that they're deployed, a third of the time the Central Command combatant commander does not have that capability," said Hagee.

To address that concern, the Navy and the Marine Corps have been experimenting with a concept called sea swap. The idea is to leave the ships and their equipment in the theater where they are needed and rotate sailors and Marines in and out.

"The Navy has done it on smaller ships, with some success," said Hagee.

"But it's never been done on a large deck, like ... [an amphibious assault ship] or carrier, and it's never been done for a large number of ships at the same time. ... We're going to experiment with it over the next year or so, because if we can be successful, we can provide more capability for that combatant commander ... simply by keeping those platforms forward deployed."

E-mail Carlos Bongioanni at: bongioannic@stripes.osd.mil

Hagee

Abortion funding sought for military hospitals

Proposed amendment would have DOD pay in cases of rape or incest

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Sexual assault victims advocate Christine Hansen wants to see female troops, especially those deployed to combat zones, have the same access to reproductive health — from contraception to abortion — as any other American woman.

According to the Pentagon's Care for Victims of Sexual Assaults, a committee formed after reports of rapes and sexual assaults by troops in Iraq, Kuwait

and Afghanistan, there were 901 reported cases of sexual assault in 2002, and 1,012 in 2003 throughout the military.

Of those, 118 (24 in 2002 and 94 in 2003) were reported from the Central Command area of responsibility, which includes Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

Still more attacks have been reported to the Miles Foundation, an organization that provides services to victims of violence associ-

ated with the military, said Hansen, the group's executive director.

"We have had over 200 cases of reported sexual assaults from women in Iraq and Kuwait," Hansen said. "I don't have a clear number of pregnancies, regretably, but more than half a dozen [of the assaults] have resulted in pregnancies."

Of the 200 reported cases, not all were rapes, she said.

Central Command, the combatant element responsible for Iraq and Afghanistan, has a policy to evacuate all pregnant servicemembers out of the area of operations "until the pregnancy is resolved and the member can be evaluated and cleared to return to duty," said spokeswoman Maj. Matt McLaughlin.

But with evacuations to the military hospital at Landstuhl, Germany, or other overseas locations, servicewomen would still have a

difficult time resolving the situation, critics say.

The foundation and Planned Parenthood Federation routinely lobby Congress to reverse a 1995 law that prevents women in the military, both active duty and dependents, from getting federally funded abortions at military hospitals.

Under current law, abortions are permitted in three cases: if the mother's life is in danger, and in cases of rape or incest, and with the latter two, the woman must pay for the procedure.

In March, Sens. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., and Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, co-wrote an amendment to the Defense Authorization spending bill that would have the Defense Department pay for abortions in cases of rape or incest.

The measure made it into the Senate version of the bill, but not the House of Representatives'. In September, lawmakers will begin hashing out the differences.

"We're just looking for the same sort of care and access women in the United States have," said John Len, assistant director of Government Relations at Planned Parenthood. "Even poor women in the U.S. don't have to pay. They can depend on Medicaid."

Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee, or NRLC, wants to see the Boxer-Snowe amendment defeated, he said.

The issue boils down to protecting servicemembers and punishing abusers, Johnson said.

"The last thing that needs to be done is to give a woman an abortion and have her get right back to work," Johnson said. "That doesn't address the problem at all. They need to investigate these cases to the fullest extent and prevent assaults from happening in the first place."

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

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Sudan rebels: No security, no disarmament

BY DANIEL BALINT-KURTI

The Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria—Sudanese insurgents won't lay down their weapons until the mostly Arab militiamen stop terrorizing black African civilians in the western Darfur region, a rebel official said Tuesday as a second day of peace talks opened in Nigeria.

The talks are a last-minute attempt to resolve the crisis before the U.N. Security Council's Aug. 30 deadline for Khartoum to disarm the Arab militia known as Janjaweed or face economic and diplomatic sanctions.

Rebels on Tuesday said security must be returned to Darfur, where the pro-government Janjaweed are accused of killing tens of thousands of black Africans and pushing more than 1.2 million from their homes.

"We're an independent movement and we're fighting for our people and our rights. This force is our guarantee, how can we disarm them?" said Abdelwahid Mohamed El Nur, chairman of the Sudan Liberation Army rebel group.

"The Janjaweed are carrying out ethnic cleansing and genocide."

"If there is a security arrangement, disarmament will come gradually. But now we are ready to speak about disarmament," he said.

Rebel delegates at the African Union-brokered talks are frustrated because they say the government is unwilling to address the political causes of the conflict, insisting instead on focusing on aid and security issues.

"We ask them (the government) clearly: 'Have you taken the strategic position to engage us politically?' We have the answer that the government is not

ready," said Ahmed Hussain Adam, a spokesman for another Darfur rebel group, the Justice and Equality Movement.

Government delegates didn't speak to reporters as they entered the closed-door talks.

A senior Sudanese official on Monday dismissed an African Union proposal for an expanded peacekeeping force in Darfur in an apparent setback to the international community's hopes that

the AU could quickly devise an African solution to the 18-month-old conflict that the United Nations has called the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The 150 African Union Rwandan troops now in Darfur are operating under a vague mandate that does not spell out how far they can go to protect targeted civilians.

The violence in Darfur is rooted in tensions between nomadic Arab tribes and non-Arab African villagers. African rebels rose against the government in February 2003, claiming discrimination in the distribution of scarce resources in the western provinces.

Aid groups and both houses of U.S. Congress have called the crisis in Darfur "genocide," but the AU and the United Nations have stopped short of calling it that.



Insurgents accused of kidnapping

The Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Sudan's government on Tuesday accused rebels in the western Darfur region of kidnapping four local television journalists and two government-affiliated relief workers.

The six were abducted Monday about 18 miles south of the southern Darfur town of Nyala on their way to film a documentary about refugees returning to the Abga Rujil area of South Darfur province, according to the government-run Sudan Media Center.

It did not say which rebel group was behind the kidnapping.

The journalists, who worked for the official Darfur television network, were identified as Mahadi Algareeb Abdul Aziz, Suleiman Sharofa, Hussein Sheikh Eddin and Abdul Rahman Hamid Abjaba.

Aid workers Yasser Ishag Ismail and Ambadi Hassan of the Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission were taken with them, according to the Sudan Media Center's report.

Meanwhile, Sudan's ministry of interior said that the rebels attacked two police units on Tuesday that were sent to protect civilians in Darfur. No casualties were reported.

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Israel: Withdrawal plans ready next month

Troops return to Nablus, detain hundreds of Palestinian men at school

BY JOSEF FEDERMAN
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel's defense minister, undaunted by growing resistance within the ruling party to a planned pullout from the Gaza Strip, said Tuesday that the army's blueprint for the withdrawal will be ready next month.

Gaza settlers charged that the government is already preparing to throw them out of their homes.

Also Tuesday, officials said Israel's attorney general has urged the government to consider adopting an international convention governing the treatment of residents occupied lands. This showed increased Israeli sensitivity to international criticism, particularly in the aftermath of a world court ruling against its contentious West Bank separation barrier.

The barrier and the Gaza withdrawal are hallmarks of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's "disengagement" plan, which he says is meant to reduce friction between Israel and the Palestinians.

Sharon hopes to carry out the Gaza pull-out next year, but it has sparked an internal uprising by hard-liners within his Likud Party.

The resistance has raised questions over whether Sharon can carry out the withdrawal without his government collapsing.

Hard-line opposition has already cost Sharon his parliamentary majority, leav-

ing him somewhat vulnerable to no-confidence votes.

Sharon insists he is going ahead, and Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz, speaking after a visit to an army base in northern Israel, said Tuesday that preparations by the country's military establishment for the pullout are progressing.

"The main points of the policy have already been decided," he said. "We plan to complete our plans in September."

Under Sharon's plan, Israel will pull out all 21 settlements in Gaza as well as four isolated enclaves in the West Bank. About 8,000 Jewish settlers live in Gaza among 1.3 million Palestinians.

Mofaz said that the military's preparations include the possibility of resistance from the settlers. "I hope we will not see extreme steps against Israeli soldiers and Israeli police," he said.

Settler representatives have harshly criticized the pullout plan. Eran Sternberg, a spokesman for the Gaza settlers, accused the army of sending in soldiers to the Neve Dekalim settlement on Tuesday to prepare for the pullout.

"The soldiers wandered around the homes and recorded different facts," Sternberg said, claiming they even counted the numbers of flower pots in individual homes.

The army said the soldiers were conducting a routine exercise unrelated to the withdrawal.

Also Tuesday, officials said Attorney General Meni Mazuz has recommended that the government seriously consider adopting the Fourth Geneva Convention, a set of international legal guidelines governing the treatment of occupied peoples.

In other news Tuesday, Israeli troops raided the Askar refugee camp in the West Bank city of Nablus, rounding up hundreds of male residents and detaining them in a high school courtyard, witnesses said.

The raid in Nablus came just a day after Israeli troops withdrew from the city after more than a week as they carried out a series of searches and arrests in the city center. The army frequently operates in Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, saying it is a center of militant activity.

Dozens of Israeli troops, backed by army jeeps and armored vehicles, entered the camp early Tuesday morning, enforced a curfew, and sealed off all entrances to the camp, witnesses said.

The army said soldiers were questioning several hundred Palestinians as part of their "ongoing search" for militants.

They said most of the men were freed late afternoon and a few were taken for further questioning.

Associated Press Television footage showed hundreds of men, crouching on the ground of the courtyard, waiting to be called for questioning. One soldier was seen grabbing the arm of an elderly Palestinian man by the back of his neck, pushing him along.



Israeli soldiers escort blindfolded detained Palestinians from the courtyard of a school Tuesday at the Askar refugee camp in the West Bank city of Nablus.



Two women struggle Tuesday with the winds of approaching Typhoon Aere as they wait for a bus in downtown Taipei, Taiwan.

Typhoon Aere dumps heavy rain on Taiwan

BY ANNIE HUANG
The Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Typhoon Aere lashed northern Taiwan on Tuesday, closing schools, grounding flights and dumping rain that threatened to cause deadly flash floods and landslides. Rough seas have killed five fishermen in Taiwan and two children in Japan, officials said.

The domestic airport in the capital, Taipei, shut down after a jetliner carrying about 100 passengers slid off the runway while landing in heavy wind and rain, officials said. No one was injured on the Far Eastern Air Transport flight, the airline said.

Aere's eye was originally expected to pass over Taipei, but the storm changed course slightly and was whirling just north of Taiwan's northern tip, the Central

Weather Bureau said. But the typhoon's outer winds were expected to sweep over half of the island, drenching soggy mountain slopes prone to mudslides.

The storm was also expected to churn past the busy port of Keelung as well as Hsinchu — home to Taiwan's world-leading chip-making companies — before roaring west to China, the bureau said.

Aere's center was packing winds of 80 mph and gusts of 102 mph, the weather bureau said.

Some areas recorded 27 inches of rain in the past day and a half, the bureau said.

Japanese coast guard officials said Tuesday that high waves swept away two sisters, ages 12 and 7, who were swimming near Japan's southern Amami-Oshima islands. Their bodies were recovered late Monday, the coast guard said.

Militant gets 10 years for Marriott bombing; is acquitted in Bali blast

BY ALI KOTARUMALOS
The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — An Indonesian court on Tuesday sentenced a Muslim militant to 10 years in jail for involvement in last year's bombing of the JW Marriott hotel but acquitted him of helping plan the 2002 Bali attacks, even though he acknowledged participating in the plot.

The August 2003 attack on the Marriott Hotel in Jakarta killed 12 people, while the bombing of nightclubs on the island of Bali killed 202.

Jhoni Hendrawan, alias Idris, admitted taking part in both attacks, but the court ruled he could not be prosecuted over the Bali case because the country's top court last month prohibited the retroactive application of the anti-terror law used to charge him.

The law, however, was applicable in the Marriott case, which occurred eight months after the anti-terror law was enacted.

The anti-terror law was rushed through parliament after the Bali attacks. The Constitutional Court ruled that the law could not be used for crimes committed before its enactment, but 32 militants were convicted under it for the Bali bombings.

Lawyers for the 32 have said they would appeal the verdicts based on the top court's ruling. But Indonesia's justice minister insists that the decision does not affect convictions already handed

down — a stance legal experts have questioned.

Hendrawan was sentenced to 10 years for providing the chemicals for the bomb in the hotel attack. Prosecutors had accused Hendrawan of playing a role in the Marriott Hotel in Jakarta killed 12 people, while the bombing of nightclubs on the island of Bali killed 202.

In earlier court sessions, Hendrawan admitted he took part in

both attacks, which he said were aimed at America and "its henchmen who oppress Islam." Prosecutors had demanded he serve 10 years.

At least 10 people have been convicted in the Marriott attack and sentenced from three to 10 years.

Also Tuesday, prosecutors at a separate terror trial demanded that another militant accused in the Marriott blast — a 23-year-old Indonesian identified as Ismail — be sentenced to 12 years.

Prosecutors accuse Ismail of helping construct the bomb and survey the hotel before the attack. A verdict in that trial is expected by next month.



Hendrawan

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Japan orders deportation of Fischer

Former chess champion quickly files an appeal

BY KOZO MIZOGUCHI
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's Justice Ministry rejected former chess champion Bobby Fischer's demand for protection as a political refugee on Tuesday and issued an order to deport him.

Fischer, detained since July 13 for attempting to travel with an invalid U.S. passport, quickly appealed the decision, and his supporters said he would not be deported immediately.

The former chess great is wanted in the United States for violating international sanctions against Yugoslavia in 1992, but he has alleged the charges against him are politically motivated.

The Justice Ministry would not release a timetable for Fischer's deportation, but ministry official Hidehiko Maruyama said Fischer would most likely be sent to the United States.

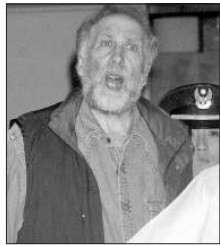
"The justice minister's judgment was that there was no justification for Fischer's appeal," Maruyama said.

Fischer's lawyers said they already had filed suit in Tokyo District Court demanding that the order be canceled and requesting an injunction halting deportation proceedings.

His attorney, Masako Suzuki, said the court typically takes about one month to consider the written request for an injunction on the deportation process, supporters said.

Fischer's legal team accused the Justice Ministry of relying heavily on advice from the U.S. government and embassy before issuing the deportation order and criticized Tokyo for rejecting Fischer's asylum application only 20 days after it was submitted.

"This raises serious doubts about the fairness and neutrality of the refugee application process," Fischer's legal team said in a statement.



Former U.S. chess world champion Bobby Fischer, shown in this Aug. 10 photo, is appealing an order to deport him.

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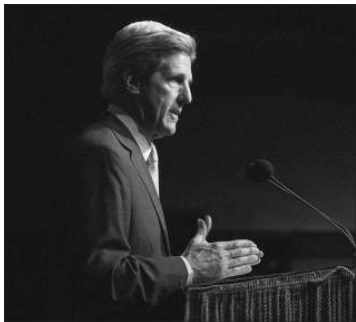
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At Cooper Union in New York on Tuesday, Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts said the Bush campaign has "no plans, no positive vision and no understanding of an urgent and undeniable truth: A strong America begins at home."

Kerry: GOP platform is 'fear and smear'

BY MARY DALRYMPLE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry accused President Bush's campaign and political allies on Tuesday of conducting a campaign of "fear and smear" to avoid talking about jobs, health care and the war in Iraq.

"You can't lead America by misleading the American people," said Kerry, who has been struggling in recent days against charges — denounced by Democrats as smear tactics — that he lied about his actions in Vietnam that brought five military medals.

"They have no plans, no positive vision and no understanding of an urgent and undeniable truth: A strong America begins at home," Kerry said.

The Massachusetts senator's speech appeared part of an effort to refocus the campaign onto domestic and foreign policy issues, many of which trend his way in the polls. By his own words, it was also an attempt to pre-empt next week's Republican National Convention in New York.

Despite what GOP speakers may claim, he said, "every step of the way, George W. Bush has put the narrow interests of the few ahead of the interests of most Americans." He said the administration has favored tax cuts for the rich, given special access to polluters, rewarded companies that send jobs overseas and sided with big oil.

Next week, he predicted, "they'll bend over backward with last-minute proposals and last-minute promises for all they haven't done and pretend they're not who they are."

Kerry delivered his speech at New York's Cooper Union, the site of President Lincoln's 1860 speech against slavery that helped thrust him into national prominence.

Kerry said his plan would preserve middle-class tax cuts, reduce the cost of health care, education and energy, and increase the federal minimum wage.

Steve Schmidt, spokesman for the Bush-Cheney campaign, said the Kerry record displays support for tax hikes, not tax cuts.

"John Kerry says the blueprint for his economic agenda was his vote for the biggest tax increase in American history he supported in 1993," Schmidt said.

The 1993 vote was in favor of President Clinton's plan to cut the deficit by \$469 billion over five years, including some tax increases. It passed by one vote without any GOP support.

While he seemed eager to talk about domestic and foreign policy issues, Kerry got in a few shots at the controversy over his service in Vietnam.

"My duty... is to be a president and commander in chief who finds the truth and tells the truth instead of misleading the American people, hiding behind front groups, saying anything and doing anything to avoid the real issues that matter, like jobs, health care and the war in Iraq."

The Kerry campaign says Bush used a newly formed veterans' group not subject to campaign spending limits to attack his character.

Schmidt said Kerry has stood by while similar independent groups aligned with Democrats have spent millions on ads against the president.

Big names turning out to help Bush with push

BY DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — Voters in eight battleground states will be getting a rolling preview of the Republican National Convention in New York City when some of its most prominent speakers join President Bush for a pre-convention campaign swing.

Those traveling with the president include high-profile, independent-minded politicians who could expand his base of support: Rudy Giuliani, the former New York City mayor who led the city's recovery after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks; Sen. Zell Miller, a Georgia Democrat who backs Bush; Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who has opposed gay marriage in his state; and Arizona Sen. John McCain, a staunch sup-

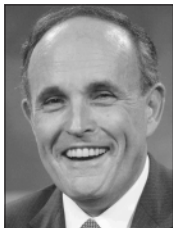
porter of the president's policies in Iraq.

Bush will visit New Mexico, Florida, Ohio, West Virginia, New Hampshire, Michigan, Tennessee and Iowa before arriving in New York to accept the party's nomination on Sept. 2.

Bush begins his pre-convention tour with three stops in New Mexico on Thursday. Giuliani, who addresses the convention Monday, will be at rallies in Las Cruces, Farmington and Albuquerque.

On Friday, Bush travels to Florida to rally voters in Miami in hopes of expanding the razor-thin victory he had there in 2000. The president will be joined by Miller, keynote convention speaker.

On the convention's third day, Bush will rally supporters in Columbus, Ohio, before traveling to New York. Bush will address the convention the next night.



Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani will campaign with President Bush this week, then address the Republican National Convention on Monday.

Anti-Kerry book making waves

NEW YORK — Barnes & Noble Inc. said Monday it has been pinched by strong demand for a new book that questions the Vietnam-era actions of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry.

The nation's largest book store chain also said Republican and Democratic critics have lodged thousands of complaints accusing it of both favoring and suppressing "Unfit for Command."

CEO Steve Riggio said Barnes & Noble has no political agenda. "Unfit for Command," by John O'Neill and Jerome Corsi, accuses Kerry of lying about his decorated wartime record and betraying comrades by returning from Vietnam and alleging widespread atrocities by U.S. troops.

Bush daughters' casting call

WASHINGTON — President Bush's twin daughters are urging young people to vote, saying that schoolwork, parties and extracurricular activities often keep students away from campaigns and voting booths.

Bush's re-election campaign sent out an e-mail Tuesday with a message from Jenna and Barbara Bush, 22, saying that less than half of 18- to 24-year-olds were registered to vote in the last election.

"We are asking you to get involved with this campaign not only because it is the most critical election of our lifetime, but also because we have the ability to positively change our future," they said.

From The Associated Press

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Roberts: Iraq, 9/11 report sparked intel plan

BY KATHERINE PFLEGER
SHRADER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Pat Roberts says that a year ago, he probably wouldn't have proposed the sweeping intelligence overhaul he brought forward this week.

But given the series of inquiries into the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the prewar intelligence on Iraq, and his eight years presiding over "Oh-my-God hearings," the Kansas Republican said he saw the need to act.

On Monday, he put forward details of a plan to break up the CIA and rearrange the Pentagon's spy agencies under a single national intelligence director, among a litany of other changes outlined in a 139-page draft bill.

Roberts calls it "a marker" in the debate and said he expects changes. But with the legislation, he has solidified his position as a leading critic of the intelligence community by proposing the

A look at Roberts' plan for intelligence gathering

The Associated Press

Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., is proposing legislation to overhaul the intelligence community, recreating it as a National Intelligence Service. Among changes he proposes:

■ Create a national intelligence director, as recommended by the Sept. 11 commission, who would have authority over intelligence. The director would oversee over four assistant directors for intelligence collection, analysis and production, research, development and acquisition, and military support.

■ Break up the CIA into three parts: a National Clandestine Service to direct traditional spy operations; an Office of National Assessments to be responsible for intelligence analysis; and an Office of Technical Support to handle research and development projects.

■ Put three Defense Department agencies under the control of the assistant director for intel-

ligence collection: the National Security Agency, the super-secret code breakers and code protectors; the National Reconnaissance Office, which operates spy satellites; and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, which analyzes the aerial imagery.

■ Make the Defense Intelligence Agency's human intelligence elements an independent agency under the control of the assistant director for collection.

■ Give the assistant director for collection control over the FBI's counterintelligence and counterterrorism divisions. Those units would continue to be subject to Attorney General guidelines and operate within the FBI for administration and support purposes.

■ Create a director of military intelligence — a four-star officer to run the Defense Department's tactical intelligence elements and oversee armed forces conducting intelligence-related work. This commander would report directly to the defense secretary.

most far-reaching intelligence overhaul debated since the Sept. 11 attacks.

Roberts' proposal met immediate and broad resistance Monday.

The Intelligence Committee's top Democrat, Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, said it would be a "severe mistake" to disband the CIA while it is em-

broiled in the war on terror.

Former CIA Director George Tenet, making his first public statement since he resigned last month, said Roberts' plan showed a "dangerous misunderstanding of the business of intelligence."

President Bush did not endorse Roberts' proposal Monday.

Instead, the president said only that he was interested in finding "the best way to fashion intelligence so the president and his Cabinet secretaries have got the ability to make good judgment calls."

Bush has supported the need for a national director to oversee all intelligence-gathering, but he has yet to detail the powers he wants the office to have.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said he hadn't had a chance to see the restructuring proposal in writing.

"We do need to make significant adjustments in how we col-

lect, communicate and dispense information," Rumsfeld told an audience of about 1,300 troops at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, on Monday.

But he added: "We have to be careful about it ... You don't want, in the middle of the war, to go tearing up the pea patch."

Roberts surprised Republicans and Democrats alike when he announced on a Sunday morning talk show his proposal to remake the intelligence community by splitting the CIA into three separate agencies, pulling all or part of four defense intelligence agencies out of the Pentagon, and creating a new national intelligence director to oversee the National Intelligence Service he envisions.

On Monday, a defensive Roberts said, "If this proposal seems radical to some ... my response would be: What should we do?"

More than three dozen attempts to reorganize the intelligence community over more than five decades have failed, he said, adding that he spoke last week with colleagues of both parties, and eight of his panel's nine Republican members have agreed that Congress must act.

Democrats, meanwhile, criticized Roberts for not working in a more bipartisan fashion, and demanded more details.

Lawmakers who handle issues ranging from intelligence to banking are expected to offer proposals to revamp the intelligence community, prodded by a report from the independent Sept. 11 commission that offered more than 40 recommendations for such an effort.

Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, called Roberts' bill a "bold proposal" that conforms to what the commission recommended: Put one person in charge of the intelligence community.

"Is this where we will end up? Probably not exactly, but it's a good place to start the debate," DeWine said.

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Alleged Hamas operative arrested while filming bridge

BY GRETCHEN PARKER
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — A man described as a high-ranking Hamas operative was arrested last week as he videotaped the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, and he then was held as a material witness in an unrelated case, authorities said Tuesday.

Ismael Selim Elbarasse of Annandale, Va., long suspected by authorities of having financial ties to the Palestinian extremist group, was taken into custody Friday, the U.S. attorney's office in Maryland said. He was held as a material witness in a Chicago terrorism case.

Gov. Robert Ehrlich said the arrest has prompted the state to place more police around the bridge, but said "it shouldn't be a generator of fear. It should serve as a reminder that there is a war going on around the world."

The terror level remains "yellow" — the third highest.

Elbarasse made an initial appearance in Baltimore's federal courthouse Monday before U.S. District Judge Judge Paul W. Grimm.

A federal grand jury in Chicago, in an indictment unsealed Friday, described Elbarasse as an indicted co-conspirator in a

15-year racketeering conspiracy in the United States and abroad to illegally finance terrorist activities in Israel.

Court documents allege that he and defendant Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook — considered one of the highest-ranking Hamas leaders internationally — shared a Virginia bank account that was used to launder hundreds of thousands of dollars for Hamas.

"He is being held only on the material witness charge," said Marcia Murphy, a spokeswoman for the Maryland U.S. attorney's office.

His court-appointed attorney, Franklin W. Draper, did not immediately return a call Tuesday seeking comment.

A woman who identified herself as Elbarasse's wife, reached at the couple's home in Annandale, said she would not immediately comment.

Elbarasse was spotted Friday — the same day the Chicago indictment was made public — by two police officers on the Bay Bridge, authorities said. The officers noticed a man in an SUV who appeared to be of Middle Eastern descent videotaping the bridge, authorities said.

Authorities said the man, who

was with a woman and two children, said they had gone to the beach but could not specify what beach they had visited. They also said the camera had recorded close-up images that seemed atypical for a tourist.

Police learned that Elbarasse was wanted as a material witness in connection with the Chicago case, and was on an FBI terrorist watch list, authorities said. But he was not charged with any wrongdoing in connection with the videotaping.

Since Elbarasse's arrest Friday, authorities have searched his Virginia home, federal officials said. Murphy said she did not know what was found.

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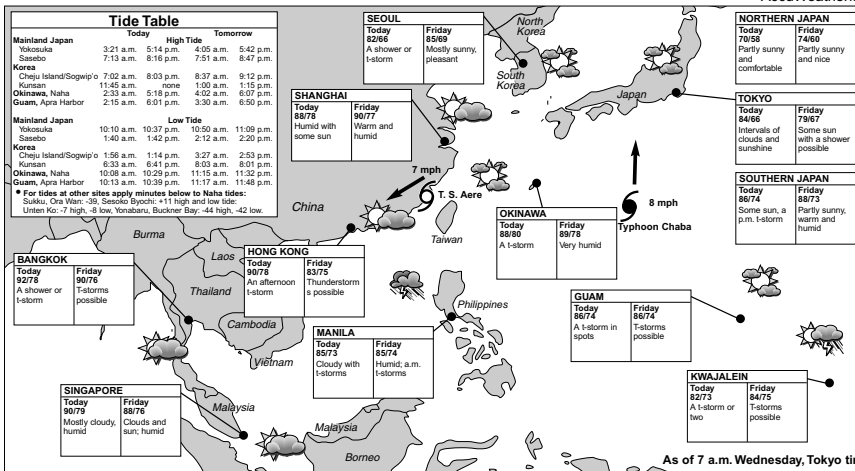
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• SPORTS

11:00 Top Choice
Afternoon
12:00 Live
1:00 Diary: Asher
1:30 Top Choice
2:00 Pure Music
3:00 Top Choice
4:00 Top Choice Selection: Pop Star
5:00 Avril Lavigne: Summer Sonic 2004 Performing Artists Special
5:30 Top Choice
Evening
6:00 M Size News Thursday
7:00 YATAI
8:00 Ashlee Simpson
8:30 Punk'd: Good Charlotte
9:30 Summer Sonic 2004 Express
10:00 All About Newlyweds: Nick, Jessica
10:30 Consensus: Southern All Stars
11:00 Screen
11:30 Pure Music
12:00 U.S. Top 20 with Super Dry
2:00 M Size News Thursday
3:00 After Hours

The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Saturday: Partly sunny, high 75, low 66.
Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 79, low 70.

KADENA

Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 87, low 77.
Sunday: Showers, high 85, low 78.

SEOUL

Saturday: Partly sunny, high 85, low 71.
Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 83, low 67.

MANILA

Saturday: Thunderstorms, high 87, low 71.
Sunday: Thunderstorms, high 84, low 71.

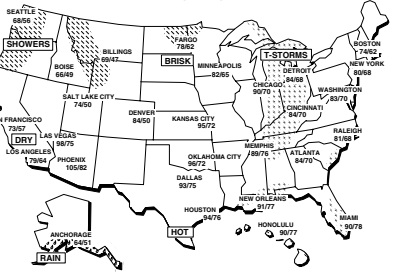
HAGATSA

Saturday: Thunderstorms, high 87, low 75.
Sunday: Thunderstorms, high 87, low 75.

Tuesday's USA Temperature

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	83/58	Los Angeles	79/62
Amarillo	92/64	Little Rock	89/73
Anchorage	74/53	Louisville	87/71
Ashville	81/63	Miami	91/76
Baltimore	88/67	Milwaukee	76/66
Birmingham	85/72	Nashville	87/70
Bismarck	74/51	New York	80/65
Boise	76/55	Omaha	87/69
Boston	70/57	Orlando	89/73
Brownsville	98/79	Philadelphia	84/66
Buffalo	79/64	Phoenix	95/79
Burlington	74/48	Pittsburgh	86/67
Charleston, SC	88/71	Portland, OR	69/60
Charlotte	87/65	Portland, ME	72/49
Cleveland	86/69	Salt Lake City	69/58
Columbus, OH	87/68	St. Louis	88/74
Duluth	69/54	San Antonio	94/77
El Paso	91/68	San Diego	74/67
Hartford	79/52	San Juan	92/76
Helena	70/50	Tampa	90/75
Indianapolis	86/69	Tulsa	98/77
Jacksonville	91/71	Washington	88/69
Kansas City	90/73	Wichita	96/73

Thursday, August 26



U.S. Extended Forecast

A storm system moving across southern Canada with a cold front into the Plains and Rockies will push east on Thursday, spreading showers and thunderstorms from Minnesota and the Dakotas to Nebraska. The weather will be cool and wet behind this system across the northern Rockies with a considerable amount of cloud cover. A moist air mass will help set the stage for showers and thunderstorms from Michigan to Mississippi. High pressure off the coast of Nova Scotia will provide eastern New England with nice weather. The central Plains will have warm weather. Friday, a cold front trailing the storm system in southern Canada will bring showers and storms from the Great Lakes states to the central Plains.

Thursday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	92/78	Iwakuni	85/72
Beijing	85/70	Kadena AB	88/80
Camp Casey	83/68	Kunsan AB	78/68
Christchurch	48/30	Kwajalein	82/73
Diego Garcia	78/72	Manila	85/73
Hagatna	86/74	Misawa AB	74/58
Hanoi	92/80	Okinawa	98/77
Hong Kong	90/78	Perth	60/41
Honolulu	90/77	Pusan	80/69

Thursday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	93/78	Budapest	67/42
Athens	93/75	Buenos Aires	57/46
Auckland	48/39	Cairo	99/71
Baghdad	112/78	Cancun	86/73
Barbados	89/74	Cape Town	67/49
Barcelona	75/60	Geneva	62/49
Berlin	63/49	Istanbul	85/70
Bermuda	83/72	Jerusalem	90/70
Brussels	64/47	Johannesburg	63/35
		Kabul	95/58
		Kiev	71/51
		New Delhi	94/80
		Oslo	64/43
		Paris	65/50
		Rio de Janeiro	80/64
		St. Petersburg	56/48
		Sydney	63/49
		Tokyo	85/71
		Warsaw	66/47



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Saving the panthers

FL PORT MYERS — A federal judge revoked a permit to develop a limestone mine amid 6,000 acres of habitat that could be used by the endangered Florida panther.

The National Wildlife Federation, which sued to stop the development, alleged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers violated the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act by issuing permits for the mine.

Panthers have been recorded at or near Florida Rock Industries' project site, near Fort Myers' Southwest International Airport. Fewer than 100 panthers remain in Florida.

Lottery trial scratched

MA BOSTON — A former convenience store clerk will keep collecting winnings from a \$4 million lottery ticket after a Massachusetts judge declared a mistrial in a dispute over ownership of the ticket.

After nearly four days of deliberations, the Barnstable Superior Court jury deadlocked over whether the winning ticket properly belonged to Julie Prive, or a Fallmouth retiree who sued to claim the prize.

Prive has been collecting winnings on the ticket — \$200,000 a year for 20 years before taxes — since 2002. Lottery officials say they will keep paying unless a court rules otherwise.

Prive had regularly collected discarded scratch tickets and entered them in the lottery's second-chance game designed to prevent litter. While double-checking the used tickets, she said she found a winner worth \$4 million.

But Raymond MacDonald and Monica Hertz claim the winning ticket — No. 93 in the book of \$10 tickets — was among the 45 tickets they bought May 17, 2002.

Checking on artifacts

HI HONOLULU — The Hawaiian Homes Commission has been asked to open a Big Island cave complex to determine if buried ancient Hawaiian artifacts are still there.

Commission chairman Micah Kane said that a policy barring access to the Kawaihau caves will remain in force while a federal probe continues into whether some other rehabilitated artifacts ended up being offered for sale.

The request for access came from Laakea Suganuma, who represents claimants who have complained the Kawaihau artifacts were reinterred four years ago without their claims being fully heard.

Suganuma asked for access after recent reports that artifacts buried in nearby Kanapa Cave turned up for sale at an antiques shop. The U.S. Interior Department is investigating.

Murder-suicide notes left

AR LITTLE ROCK — A medical school student who jumped to his death after apparently killing his neurosurgeon wife left a note citing problems in his marriage, a newspaper reports.

Police had earlier said that Robert Howard left a rambling note that apologized for his perceived



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

failures but contained no clue about what drove him to murder and suicide.

The existence of a second note was reported in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette newspaper.

The notes were found together on a desk at the home shared by Howard, 28, a former All-American triple-jumper as a University of Arkansas track athlete, and his wife, Dr. Robin L. Mitchell, 31, chief neurosurgeon resident at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Robbery suspect caught

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — An Oklahoma City man has been arrested in connection with 15 bank robberies in six Oklahoma cities.

Gerard Bennett, 31, was arrested by FBI agents outside an Oklahoma City hotel after a short foot chase.

Bennett was arraigned on 15 counts of bank robbery and six counts of using a minor in a crime of violence. U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert Bacharach ordered that Bennett be detained.

According to a federal grand jury indictment, Bennett intentionally used one or two people younger than 18 in six of the Oklahoma robberies.

Tribal sovereignty upheld

ID BOISE — A federal appellate court in Idaho upheld the ban preventing the state from taxing motor fuel sold on Indian



Ugly duck

One of the many odd ducks that roam Baumert Lake at Eastside Park in Washington, Ind., looks for food. Residents believe years of inbreeding has produced these strange ducks.

reservations. In a 2 to 1 ruling, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with the Coeur d'Alene, Nez Perce and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes that such taxation violated tribal sovereignty and could create a barrier to interstate commerce.

Clay Smith, the attorney who argued the case for the state, said it was too soon to know if the state would seek an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. That decision would be made by the tax commission after consulting with Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, he said.

Nez Perce Tribal Chairman Anthony Johnson said he was happy with the ruling.

"We're pleased that the court has upheld the tribes' sovereignty, and has disallowed the state's intrusion on the tribes' basic governmental powers," Johnson said.

Wheely bad ride

NY PHOENICIA — A Ferris wheel at an Ulster County fire department fund-raiser spun out of control after a cable snapped, coming to a halt only after nearly two dozen firefighters at the fair grabbed the wheel and brought it under control, police said.

None of the seven passengers was hurt, but several children were temporarily stranded in suspended cars and the ride's operator suffered a minor arm injury, said Officer Thomas O'Connell of the Town of Shandaken police.

The incident began at Parish Field in Phoenicia, where a fund-raiser for the Phoenicia Fire Department was being held, police said.

After the cable snapped, the ride's operator tried to use the hand brake to stop the wheel from spinning. But the wheel continued to speed up, police said.

"It was really scary — it looked like a roulette wheel when you spin it. I'm surprised nobody got thrown off," O'Connell said.

Twenty firefighters swarmed the ride, stopping it and freeing two adult riders from the bottom car. Five children were stranded in upper cars until firefighters used a ladder truck to free them.

Less means more

LA NEW ORLEANS — The National Marine Fisheries Service released a much-anticipated draft of a study on how to save the struggling shrimp industry in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.

The agency said cutting down on the number of shrimp boats is a top priority. Possibilities mentioned in the report include a moratorium on new licenses and a government buyback of licenses and boats.

"We're producing about all we're going to produce as a system and I think the industry has to look at how to distribute that catch," said William Hogarth, assistant administrator of the Fisheries Service. "If it's going to be an open-access fishery then it will be difficult to keep up the profitability."

The industry, hit hard by imports which now make up 80 percent of the market, is waging a trade battle with six of the largest shrimp-producing countries. Last month, the U.S. Commerce Department ruled in favor of imposing tariffs on shrimp from those countries.



Out for a roll Old Dan, a blue rat owned by 9-year-old Oscar McKinnara, rolls through the grass at Heritage Park as he prepares for the start of the Pet Parade in Olympia, Wash.



Scorched earth A Confederate army officer re-enactor ignites some bales of hay during a Civil War Reenactment/Encampment in Clintonville, Wis.



Troubled waterway Two canoeists paddle through a section of the breached Embury Dam near Fredericksburg, Va. A year ago, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers declared the three-quarter-mile stretch of the Rappahannock River from the dam to the Interstate 95 bridge off-limits to public use.



Sinking feeling Jason Itam, 16, left, and Steven Dause, 16, begin to sink when their cardboard boat, the Minnow, collapses as it absorbs too much water during the inaugural Cardboard Boat Race at Aquia Landing Beach Park, along the Potomac River near Stafford, Va.



In the thick of it Mike Larson gets bogged down in some slimy stuff during the Mud Run at Kernel Days in Wells, Minn.



Water everywhere Children dance and cool off from the summer heat under the spray from a broken fire hydrant in Pomona, Calif.



Mating season Manatees gather on the shoreline of Siesta Beach in Sarasota, Fla. The manatees were in a mating frenzy and came closer and closer to the shore as they tired.

\$2M cleanup project

UT ALTA — Texas oilman Dick Bass invested nearly every dollar he ever earned and borrowed millions more to develop his Snowbird ski resort, and he wasn't eager to touch the mining waste he inherited on resort lands. It could make him liable under federal law for an expensive reclamation.

"I owe so much money my tail is puckerd to my tonsils every waking moment," Bass, 74, of Dallas said Wednesday.

But now Snowbird resort is joining an unusual partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, the conservation group Trout Unlimited and Tiffany & Co. to finish cleaning up the acidic pollution leaching heavy metals into American Fork river.

The \$2 million project, taking place on a patchwork of federal and private lands, couldn't be done on federal dollars alone, Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth said.

Bosworth said the Utah partnership could serve as a template for cleanup projects around the West, where mining waste has polluted the headwaters of 40 percent of all watersheds.

Tracking kids K-12

RI PROVIDENCE — Public school students in Rhode Island will have their academic progress tracked by a new identification system.

The 10-digit number, called a universal student identifier, will allow districts to follow the performance of all students from elementary school through high school, The Providence Journal reported.

The identifier number is randomly generated by a computer and is confidential, state education officials say. The state assigns a number to each child and then that ID number is sent back to the district, which merges it with the child's records.

Although the Federal No Child Left Behind Law doesn't require that states adopt a universal ID system, it does require that states gather test-score data based on ethnicity, income, gender and disability. Without some kind of identification system, states could not assemble and sort all of this information.

At least 35 states have adopted some form of identifier, and, like Rhode Island, most have chosen a system in which the number is assigned by the state education department.

Training in Indian issues

MI EAST LANSING — A Native American law program to be launched this fall at Michigan State University College of Law will train future lawyers in Indian issues ranging from gaming to taxes.

The program will provide law students with a more specialized background and let them work with tribal governments on policy-making decisions, research and infrastructure plans.

"Many people, including the public and law students and even practicing attorneys, are simply unfamiliar with tribal governments at all except for an occasional casino reference," said assistant professor Donald Lavender, director of the program.

The program's four classes include one in which law students

will work with tribal governments on everything from developing tax codes to zoning regulations.

Only 20 law schools nationwide have formal Indian law programs. Fewer than 1 percent of lawyers in the United States are Native Americans.

Black bear ruling

NH CONCORD — In what the Fish and Game Department says may be a precedent-setting case, a Shelburne man has been convicted of shooting a black bear raiding a bird feeder in his back yard.

Fish and Game Lieutenant Doug Gralenski said that Jocelyn Labonville had complained twice to conservation officers that a black bear was raiding his bird feeders and he was concerned for his grandchildren's safety.

Gralenski said Labonville was told to stop feeding birds and the bear problem would go away but he shot and killed the bear while it fed at his bird feeder on June 14.

Labonville was convicted in Gorham District Court of taking wildlife during a closed season. He was fined \$240 and will lose his hunting license for one year.

Several states, including Vermont, New York and Pennsylvania, have laws prohibiting direct and indirect feeding of black bears.

Auto collision kills 2

NC LILLINGTON — Two people believed to be a mother and her child died in a collision with a car carrying five robbery suspects who were being chased by police.

According to authorities, the men, who may have been trying to rob a bank were speeding in their car when it struck the woman's Jaguar as she tried to enter N.C. 210 from the parking lot of a shopping center.

The five suspects, who were in a Lincoln Town Car, and the driver of another vehicle involved were hurt and taken to a hospital, Harnett County Sheriff Larry Rollins said.

A worker at the First National Bank in Erwin called police after she noticed men who were trying to hide their faces. She locked the door and the men left the bank.

Emergency rooms close

CA LOS ANGELES — Financial problems caused mainly by the treatment of uninsured patients have forced two emergency rooms to close in Los Angeles County, raising concerns that other facilities may be overwhelmed.

The latest emergency room closings are the fifth and sixth in two years, causing some officials to worry about a shortage of emergency care in the state's most populous region.

"We cannot stand any more closures in an emergency system capacity in Los Angeles — this system is on the brink of absolute chaos," said Jim Lott, executive vice president of the Hospital Association of Southern California.

They blamed a decrease in reimbursements for treatment of uninsured patients, many of whom use the emergency room as their primary care facility.

Stories and photos from news wires

OPINION

Swift boat dispute is a case study in bias

BY BEN WASSERSTEIN

Last Thursday, The Washington Post reported that the military records of Larry Thurlow, one of John Kerry's major accusers about the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, contradicted Thurlow's version of events and confirmed Kerry's. At the very least, this cast severe doubt on the charge that Kerry fabricated the events that earned him one of his Vietnam War medals.

The conservative media had been pushing the fabrication story energetically. How did it deal with new evidence undermining it? As it turns out, at almost every turn it soft-pedaled the new evidence or outright ignored it, showing its bias throughout.

On March 13, 1969, Kerry commanded one of five Navy Swift boats in a raid up the Bay Rap River and won a Bronze Star for actions under enemy fire. Thurlow commanded one of the other boats, and he has claimed in constant media rounds there was no enemy fire. But, as The Post reported, Thurlow also won a Bronze Star that day, and the citation that accompanied it referred to "enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire" directed at "all units."

Thurlow's current story casts doubt on his own Bronze Star as much as Kerry's. Thurlow's explanation is that his citation's record of the events must have been based on Kerry's and that the information must have been provided by Kerry himself. There is an "after-action report" that Thurlow and John E. O'Neill, coauthor of the anti-Kerry book "Unfit for

Command," refer to as "Kerry's report" despite the fact that it bears the initials KJW. (Later news stories have pointed out that Thurlow's Bronze Star citation refers to a witness to the enemy fire (Thurlow crewmate Robert Lambert) and that the KJW initials are also on reports about events Kerry was not involved in.)

No one has so far challenged the Washington Post's facts. Not that you'd know that if you were watching or listening to or reading conservative media outlets. Rupert Murdoch's New York Post ran Thurlow's charge that Kerry lied to get his medal. On Friday, the day after the Washington Post story poked a hole in that contention, the New York Post ran a teeny story focusing only on Kerry's decision to counterattack against a "tough anti-Kerry TV ad." The Wall Street Journal editorial page and its Web site, OpinionJournal, also said nothing about the new evidence.

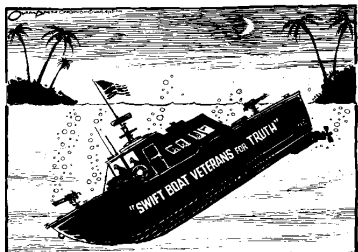
The conservative Washington Times did report The Washington Post's Thurlow scoop in a news article. It also ran Part 3 of its series excerpting "Unfit for Command," and the excerpt on Friday included Thurlow's contention that there was no hostile fire on March 13, 1969. In his column on Kerry, Washington Times Editor in Chief Wesley Pruden wrote, "The monies' friends at The Washington Post attempted to muddy the waters for him yesterday," and then Pruden approvingly restated Thurlow's assertions and gave an explanation for the discrepancy. An unsigned editorial called on the media to investigate the after-action report.

The leading serious conservative journal, the Weekly Standard, posted a new issue online Friday with a cover story titled "The Kerry Wars."

The story cited the Washington Post article and admitted that "the documentary evidence available so far backs Kerry's story," but its paragraph dealing with the accusations that Kerry lied to get his medals concludes that "such claims boil down to Kerry's word versus his opponents'."

On TV and radio, all the action came Thursday ... John Kasch was guest host of [Fox News Channel's] "The O'Reilly Factor" on Thursday, and Thurlow himself phoned in to address The Post's story. To his credit, Kasch hammered Thurlow with questions, making the common-sense point, "You know, if I got a citation that said I saved somebody ... and it wasn't that way, I don't know, maybe I would attempt to correct the record." Thurlow just repeated that there had been no enemy fire and that Kerry had written the report on which the citation was based. He wasn't asked for evidence. ...

Following "O'Reilly," "Hannity & Colmes" tackled the Thurlow story with their guest (they said the Kerry campaign declined to send a representative). On "Hannity" they said Kerry had prepared the report, the citations were based on "because anybody reading it with practical knowledge would know that" and "the other side of the story" such as Thurlow said that Kerry "often wrote after-action reports." There's not a bullet hole in any of those three boats, not one," he



said, offering no documentation. The Los Angeles Times reported Friday that a report on "battle damage" to Thurlow's boat made reference to "three 30 cal bullet holes about super structure."

Meanwhile, on the radio, Rush Limbaugh offered a master class in turning the Washington Post's story into an indictment of Kerry. In his opening monologue, Limbaugh said that to vote for Kerry, one would "have to accept only what he tells us about his service record." That left out the small matter of the accounts from his crewmates, Kerry's war record and Thurlow's war record. ...

Ignoring all the evidence in Kerry's favor, Limbaugh later said: "We haven't got any evidence because the Kerry campaign won't come forth and defend any of this." In a speech that day, Kerry directly addressed the charges against him by asking people to look at his record. But

Limbaugh repeatedly asserted: "He won't face this. He runs from it," and "he won't answer the charges."

By the end of the program, it seemed as though the revelation about Thurlow gave Limbaugh more confidence in the Swift Vets' account.

"How come it's causing so much angst? ... It's because it's true, probably," Limbaugh said. "We're supposed to believe what [the Kerry campaign says]. Because their attitude is, 'If we say it's true, if the other guys say it, it's a lie, believe us.'"

That attitude, with its blithe dismissal of opposing evidence, perfectly describes the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth and its enablers in the media. What proof there is supports Kerry, and yet to the right-wing media the burden of proof falls on him.

Ben Wasserstein is a writer in New York. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Kerry's never been to Cambodia, yet he won't leave

BY JOSHUA MURAVCHIK

Most of the debate between the former shipmates who swear by John Kerry and the group of other Swift Boat veterans who are attacking his military record focuses on matters that few of us have the experience or the moral standing to judge. But one issue, having nothing to do with medals or bravery awards, goes to the heart of Kerry's qualifications for the presidency and is therefore something that each of us must consider. That is Kerry's apparently fabricated claim that he fought in Cambodia.

It is an assertion he made first, insofar as the written record reveals, in 1979 in a letter to the Boston Herald. Since then he has repeated it on at least eight occasions. ... The most dramatic iteration came on the floor of the Senate in 1986, when he made it the centerpiece of a 20-minute oration against aid to the Nicaraguan contras.

Kerry argued that contra aid could put the United States on the path to deeper involvement despite denials by the Reagan administration of such intent. Kerry began by reading out similar denials regarding Vietnam from presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon. Then he offered this devastating riposte: "I remember Christmas of 1968 sitting on a gunboat in Cambodia. I remember what it was like to be shot at by Vietnamese and Khmer Rouge and Cambodians, and have the presi-

dent of the United States telling the American people that I was not there. The troops were merely "near," then his deliberate misstatement falsified the entire speech. ...

However seared he was, Kerry's spokesmen now say his memory was faulty. When the Swift Boat veterans who oppose Kerry presented statements from his commanders and members of his unit denying his boat entered Cambodia, none of Kerry's shipmates came forward ... to corroborate his account. ... The point of Kerry's 1986 speech was that he had taken part in a secret and illegal war in a neutral country.

That was only true if he was "in Cambodia," as he had often said he was. If he was merely "near," then his deliberate misstatement falsified the entire speech. ...

After his discharge, Kerry became the leader of Vietnam Veterans Against the War. Once he presented to Congress the accounts by his VVAW comrades of having "personally raped, cut off ears, cut off heads, taped wires ... to human genitals ... razed villages in a fashion reminiscent of Genghis Khan ... poisoned foodstocks." Later it was shown that many of the stories on which Kerry based this testimony were

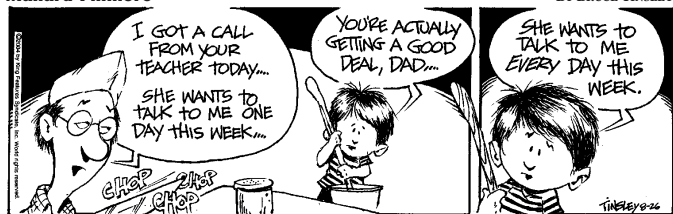
false, some told by impostors who had stolen the identities of real GIs, but Kerry himself was not implicated in the fraud. ...

Kerry ... has claimed that the epiphany he had that Christmas was about truthfulness. ... If — as seems almost surely the case — Kerry himself has lied about what he did in Vietnam, and has done so not merely to spice his biography but to influence national policy, then he is surely not the kind of man we want as our president.

Joshua Muravchik is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Horoscope

With Mercury still retrograde, and both the sun and moon in signs that like to be super subtle with emotional sharing, some actions taken will be misconstrued. The lunar influence is Capricorn, so the confusion could center around who's being seen in respect, how and why. To avoid trouble, pay attention to protocol, and be as clear as possible.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(August 26). You count your wealth in many currencies this year — love is at the top of that list. Relationships get tighter as your commitment becomes more definite. New income sources are featured in the next six weeks. Getting the proper skills will ensure that you get a position you're aiming for this fall. Love signs are Cancer or Leo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

The theme is connection. You unconsciously quest to better understand the nature of friendship, to reconnect with a forgotten friendship or to learn the true meaning of friendship. Tonight, the cat is out of the bag.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Your imagination needs to be nourished, and this happens best when you get out of your normal environment and experience something new. It won't happen naturally. Some planning and effort must take place.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Errands and appointments rule your schedule, but what happens during the pit stops in between will be the most fascinating. There's much to envy about a fabulous friend, and these feelings are best kept private.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Practical matters need speedy resolution. Your relationships (especially the romantic ones) run much more smoothly when the bills are paid. At work, you'll be required to do a lot in a small stretch of time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

Your rare qualities are highlighted. Your relationship with a certain person is different from any other relationship either you or this person has. Recognize

ize its uniqueness, and appreciate what this brings to your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Your own achievement has surpassed your expectation, and that's a remarkable feeling — for about an hour. Then, true to form, you're trying to improve again. If you're not communicating with family, break the pattern.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Everyone has an opinion, but that doesn't obligate you to follow the advice. Feel free to live your way. The old success wheel will start rolling when you develop your individuality to an even higher level. Romance is in the air tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Family members show love and support in their own funny way. Special relationships help you with job advancement. You needn't feel guilty, as the benefits will be mutual. Your contribution at work is greatly enriching.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Pace yourself, and don't let demands run you ragged. You can only do so much on your own and may find it necessary to delegate more of your load. Start by getting the help of your nearest and dearest.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

You have superhuman energy! You may use it to further everyone else's agenda, but don't forget about your own projects. A friend's self-confidence is directly affected by your opinion. Be compassionate, but don't be neutral.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Your normally easygoing attitude is overthrown by a consuming feeling of exhilaration. A creative life force is surging through you now, and it touches all you do with a passionate fire. Appreciation for your work is coming.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

You'll be exploring your ideals and maybe changing them, too. You're a complex being with needs that can only be met in your own quality time. Adventure and spontaneity are the remedy for your restless spirit.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



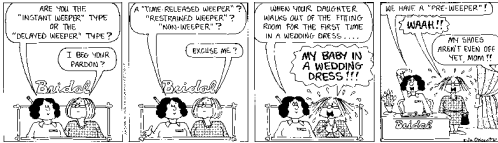
Jump Start



Zits



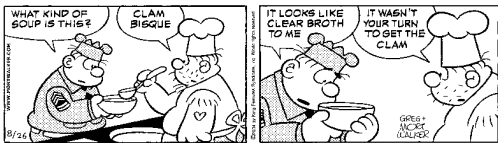
Cathy



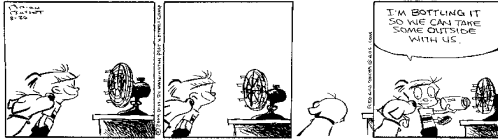
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



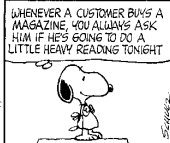
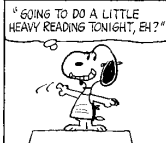
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



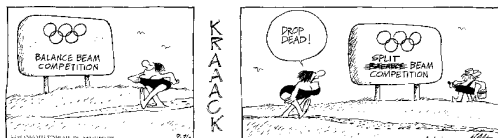
Peanuts



Foxrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



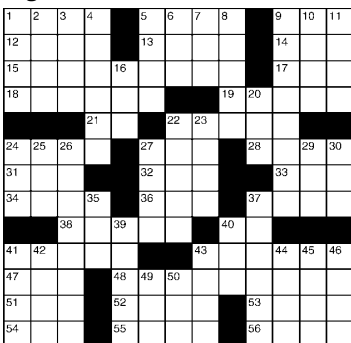
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Data storage unit
- 5 Catch red-handed
- 9 Cong. member
- 12 Burden
- 13 Lotion
- 14 Swelled head
- 15 Mother of Caligula
- 17 Author Fleming
- 18 Sews loosely
- 19 Annie's dad
- 21 "That hurts!"
- 22 Dr. Hunter Adams
- 24 Bread
- 27 Aviv lead-in
- 28 Spilled the beans
- 31 Ancient
- 32 "Monty Python" opener
- 33 Floral garland
- 34 Be philanthropic
- 36 Guitarist Kotke
- 37 City of Yemen
- 38 Not so healthy
- 40 Early hrs.
- 41 Women's mag
- 43 His work was done by Friday
- 47 Thoroughfare (Abbr.)
- 48 Aladdin's find
- 51 Apiece
- 52 Border on
- 53 Ontario neighbor
- 54 USDA grad
- 55 Driver's license datum
- 56 "Little Man —"

Down

- 1 De-bag the cat?
- 2 Calming practice
- 3 Sailors
- 4 Newsweek employee
- 5 Siestas
- 6 Will Smith biopic
- 7 Charged bit
- 8 Minimum
- 9 "Beverly Hills Cop" actor
- 10 "Zounds!"
- 11 Express transportation?
- 16 Church perch
- 20 Legislation
- 22 An Apostle
- 23 As well
- 24 Navigation hindrance
- 25 Mr. Wallach
- 26 Consultants
- 27 Mah-jongg piece
- 29 Shelter
- 30 Cacophony
- 35 Krueger's street
- 37 "Charm"
- 39 Death of a Salesman
- 40 Circle segment
- 41 Part of a Batman costume
- 42 It takes the cake
- 43 Give as an example
- 44 Rue of "Less Than Perfect"
- 45 Skip over
- 46 Sabar alternative
- 49 Lawyers' org.
- 50 Clog (up)

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-26

CRYPTOQUIP

J X M P D A Q W V Z S J A W V Y R Y Q B
S A H W A Z J V S ' H A C M Y W Y Q B
U X C Y Q B D V W M F : " V U X P W
R V H W Q Y B F W . "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU OFTEN MISPLACE YOUR PUNCTUATION MARKS, I THINK THAT COULD BE BAD COMMA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals X

Collections could be sign of OCD

Dear Abby: "Living Like a Hermit in California" complained about her husband's unusual collecting behavior.

"He owns 24 cars," she wrote. "None of them run; they just sit and rot. He buys old airplanes although he doesn't know how to fly and they too, just rusting away. He also collects cardboard boxes and anything in bulk." You suggested she contact a lawyer and get her husband a psychiatric evaluation.

His hoarding sounds like obsessive-compulsive disorder to me. I have depression and, during my worst times, I have voraciously collected metal washers. I found it soothing to have something to concentrate on besides my problems. The quality of my collection was a substitute for real accomplishment.

The fact that "Living's" husband felt withdrawn leads me to suspect that he has depression, OCD or a similar psychiatric

problem. I got help for mine, and I feel much better. Her husband might never be normal, but a good place to start would be sympathy, patience and a caring doctor.

Dear Abby: I advised "Living Like a Hermit in California" to consult a lawyer because she said her husband had moved them out of a house into a trailer and had spent all their assets on his "hobby." I agree that he may be mentally ill. Read on:

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: The letter from "Living Like a Hermit" had a familiar ring. My neighbor exhibited similar behavior and was diagnosed with manic depression. When she was up, she collected; when she was down she withdrew from the world.

Roger may be more than "eccentric"; he may suffer from a mental illness.

—Been There in Tampa, Fla.

Dear Been There: That may be true, but I am not qualified to diagnose him.

Dear Abby: Tell that woman to get off her duff, learn more about her husband's collection and then get on a case! There are people rebuilding old cars who have to order custom parts when none are available. And in California, the movie business is always looking for props.

One studio rented my former father-in-law's car while shooting a movie about the Kennedy assassination in Dallas.

They asked for permission to paint the car black. He said, "Sure, as long as you point it white again before you return it." And they did!

—Nancy in Houston
Dear Nancy: I love your idea about turning her husband's "compulsion" into an income stream. They could use the money.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can email to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>
Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BYMUP

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

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LEREC

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

SEJERY

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

www.jumble.com

GOURAC

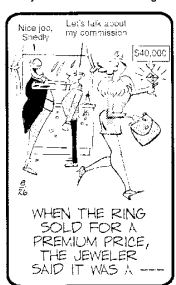
□ □ □ □ □ □ □

Answer here: "□ □ □ □" OF A "□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MAIZE BAKED FORGOT CIPHER
Answer: What the shady salesman did to the unsuspecting buyer — TOOK HIM FOR A RIDE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Counter cancer before it strikes

Dear Annie: I am at my computer giving some advice to "New Jersey," whose husband's family history puts him at high risk for prostate cancer, but he refuses to see a doctor because he is too embarrassed and doesn't want anyone touching him. That's too bad, because he can be sure the mortician is going to touch him — and sooner than he thinks.

This man knows he is showing symptoms, yet he does nothing. Thank you for telling him to look into information available through the American Cancer Society. Years ago, my husband was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Very little information was available to the public at the time. He had surgery, follow-ups and 12 years of office visits in order for this information to be compiled.

Annie's Mailbox



Please tell "New Jersey" to have her husband read this and think about his wife and family. If he cares about them, he will do whatever is necessary to stick around.

—Lived Through It in Michigan

Dear Michigan: Our readers were quite concerned about this man's willful disregard of his health and hoped he would change his mind soon. Here's one more:

Dear Annie: I would like to say something to "New Jersey's" husband: The only embarrassment you will suffer is when others find out you did nothing to protect your health. Your doctor visits are private, and members of your immediate family will know only that you are going in for a checkup.

I also am at high risk of devel-

oping prostate cancer because both my grandfather and father died of it. My father fought the cancer for over seven years.

During that time, I had many opportunities to tell him I loved him. He showed me many strengths by not quitting, denying or looking for false hope. I miss my father greatly, but his lessons are ingrained in me.

At the age of 37, I began regular prostate checks. I am now 45. A digital exam may be uncomfortable, but it is not painful. A PSA blood test is done along with all my other blood work. I am on the right track to discover prostate cancer early enough to beat it if it comes knocking on my door. I want to tell him: Be strong, get yourself checked, and live life to the fullest.

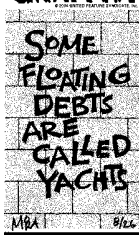
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5771 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"PJ shouldn't complain about taking a short nap. Cicada moths sleep for 17 years."

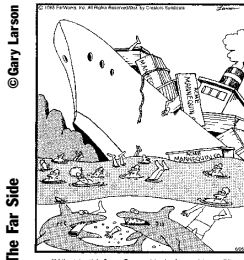
GRAFFITI



Dennis the Menace



The Far Side



"What is this? Some kind of meat house?"

Non Sequiter



"THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF INSTITUTING A PRESS CODE FOR THOSE JOURNALISTS..."

Autos for Sale	
- Okinawa	152

Autos for Sale	
- Okinawa	152

Motorcycles	
- Okinawa	170


Baby Items	200
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Book Stores	250
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Computers

360


Household Items	560
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Every service member's commitment to our nation's defense is invaluable.

During the month of September, DefendAmerica.mil and the Pentagon Channel will spotlight some of the many men and women in uniform who joined the armed forces in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the United States.

If you responded to the attack by joining the military and would like us to consider your story for publication, please fill up the form found at:

www.defendamerica.mil/forms/CallAction.html

Lilly outduels Martinez

Jays' lefty sets record with 13 Ks in besting Boston ace

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Ted Lilly thoroughly enjoyed ending Boston's six-game winning streak with a record-setting performance.

Lilly struck out a career-high 13 in a three-hit shutout, leading the Toronto Blue Jays past Pedro Martinez and the Red Sox 3-0 Monday night. Lilly (9-8) set a club mark for strikeouts by a left-hander—the previous record of 11 was accomplished twice by David Wells and once by Al Leiter.

"I'll certainly look back and be pretty happy about this," said Lilly, who entered 0-3 with a 5.26 ERA in 10 games against the Red

Sox, including nine starts.

Reed Johnson hit a leadoff homer against Martinez (13-5), sending the last-place Blue Jays to their fourth consecutive win. Lilly walked two and threw 126 pitches in his second career shutout and fourth complete game.

"He was fun to watch tonight," Martinez said.

Manny Ramirez doubled in the first, Mark Bellhorn tripled in the fifth and Orlando Cabrera singled in the eighth for Boston's hits.

The Red Sox fell 6½ games behind first-place New York in the AL East.

Jason Varitek, Boston's best hitter this month, dropped his appeal Monday of a four-game suspension for his part in a bench-clearing brawl with the Yankees last month.

Martinez struck out 10 and allowed three runs and four hits in seven innings in sixth start against Toronto this year.

Johnson led off the first inning with a homer. Orlando Hudson followed with a triple before Vernon Wells hit a sacrifice fly, making it 2-0.

Hudson led off the third with a walk, advanced to third on Carlos Delgado's single and scored on Eric Hinske's RBI single.

The Blue Jays had lost 13 of 15 before their winning streak.

In other AL games on Monday:

Figure 7, White Sox 0: Jeremy Bonderman struck out a career-high 14 and allowed seven hits in his first career shutout.

Bonderman (7-10) threw his first career complete game to win for the first time since July 7.

Carlos Guillen hit a two-run homer for host Detroit, which has won five of seven.

Jose Contreras (11-6) lost for the first time since being acquired from the New York Yankees on July 31. He gave up five runs and six hits in five innings, and walked a career-high seven.

Yankees 6, Indians 4: Gary Sheffield hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the ninth inning as New York sent host Cleveland to its eighth straight loss.

The Yankees won for only the second time in eight games.

Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter came out in the ninth after he bruised his left elbow when he was hit by a pitch from Bob Wickman. X-rays were negative, and Jeter expects to play Tuesday.

Twins 7, Rangers 4: Johan Santana allowed one run in eight innings to win his seventh straight decision, and visiting Minnesota padded its lead in the AL Central to eight games.

Santana (14-6) gave up four hits, struck out 11 and walked one to help the Twins win for the seventh time in eight games. Santana surpassed 200 strikeouts this season—the first Twins pitcher with that many since Bert Blyleven had 215 in 1986.

Kenny Rogers (15-6) allowed six runs and 10 hits in 5½ innings for Texas, which has lost two straight following an eight-game winning streak.

Athletics 4, Orioles 3: Jermaine Dye hit a tying single in the sixth and Adam Melhuse followed with a go-ahead single, helping host Oakland hand Baltimore its seventh straight loss.

Tim Lincecum (9-4) beat the O's for the second time in six days.

Miguel Tejada received a lengthy ovation in his first at-bat in Oakland since last season.

Angels 9, Royals 4: In Anaheim, Calif., Bartolo Colon allowed just two singles through the first seven innings and Vladimir Guerrero and Jose Guillen homered on consecutive pitches, helping Anaheim win its sixth straight.

Devil Rays 9, Mariners 0: Scott Kazmir won his major league debut, and Jose Cruz Jr. hit a three-run homer to lead Tampa Bay to its second victory in 17 road games.

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Rivers, Chargers finally reach deal

The Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — Rookie quarterback Philip Rivers ended his lengthy holdout, agreeing to terms on a six-year contract with the San Diego Chargers on Monday night.

The contract will pay Rivers \$40.5 million, including a \$14.25 million signing bonus. He can earn \$10 million more in incentives.

Chargers General Manager A.J. Smith said Rivers was driving to the team's training camp from San Diego and was expected to sign the contract late Monday or early Tuesday.

This is a fair day for both Philip Rivers and the Chargers," Smith said. "We're just happy to have the negotiations behind us and a bright future ahead for Philip, the Chargers and all Charger fans. We're looking forward to getting him on the field and ready for the 2004 season."

Rivers, taken by the New York Giants with the No. 4 pick in this year's draft, was acquired by Chargers in the deal that sent quarterback Eli Manning to New York. Manning was selected by

San Diego with the No. 1 overall pick.

Rivers missed four weeks of training camp and two preseason games.

The 6-foot-5 Rivers is unlikely to get the starting job immediately. In his absence, three-year veteran Drew Brees has performed well and will likely lead the team at the start of the season.

In addition to Brees, the Chargers have three other quarterbacks on the roster, including free agent Joe Germaine and Cleo Lemon, the team's No. 3 quarterback last season. Doug Flutie was sidelined after having surgery on his left knee but is now practicing with the team.

Rivers was a four-year starter at North Carolina State, and was the MVP of all five bowl games he played in during college, including the Senior Bowl.

He set an NCAA record with 51 career starts and is the second-leading passer in NCAA history with 13,484 yards. He completed 72 percent of his passes last year with 34 touchdowns.

In four seasons, he threw 95 TD passes and completed 64 percent of his attempts.

Carter signs with Jets

The Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Quarterback Quincy Carter signed with the New York Jets on Tuesday, three weeks after his surprising release by Dallas.

Carter, who started every game for the Cowboys last season, was released Aug. 4, before the team's first exhibition game. Reports said he failed a drug test and the NFL Players Association has filed a request for arbitration in the case.

Gene Upshaw, the union's executive director, told The Associated Press that the NFLPA will continue to press the case.

"We have to," he said, adding that part of the grievance involves potential salary loss to Carter.

With the Jets, Carter will back up Chad Pennington, giving the team an experienced second-stringer. Neither of the other two quarterbacks, second-year man Brooks Bollinger nor Ricky Ray, who played in the Canadian Football League, has ever taken an NFL snap.

Carter, a second-round draft choice by the Cowboys in 2001, started all 31 games in which he played for Dallas, including 17 last season — 16 in the regular season and one in the playoffs. In his career, he has 507 completions in 902 attempts for 5,839 yards with 29 touchdowns and 36 interceptions.

Vikings add Ross to CB corps

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Cornerback Derek Ross, who tied for the NFL record last in interceptions two years ago, was signed



on Tuesday by the Minnesota Vikings.

New Orleans was the latest team to waive Ross, a third-round pick by Dallas in 2002. Ross started nine games that season and had five interceptions. He also returned kicks.

The Saints let the former Ohio State player go after he missed a practice and failed to report on time. He was released by Dallas in December and was signed by Atlanta, where he played two games.

Brian Williams, one of Minnesota's starting cornerbacks, has a sprained knee and may not play in the Sept. 12 opener.

Patriots release FB McCrary

FOXBORO, Mass. — The New England Patriots released veteran fullback Fred McCrary on Tuesday.

Primarily a blocking back, the seven-year veteran joined New England before last season, starting three games before he was sidelined with a season-ending leg injury.

The 6-foot, 247-pound fullback was a sixth-round draft pick of the Philadelphia Eagles out of Mississippi State in 1995.

He signed with the San Diego Chargers in 1999 and started 55 of 63 games in the next four seasons.

In his career, the 31-year-old McCrary has 105 career receptions for 598 yards and six touchdowns.



Seahawks team physician Dr. Stan Herring checks the broken lower left leg of linebacker Chad Brown.

Raiders don't think Woodson will be ready to play in opener

The Associated Press

NAPA, Calif. — Charles Woodson's holdout will probably keep the four-time Pro Bowl cornerback out of the Oakland Raiders' season opener.

Raiders coach Norv Turner expressed doubt Monday that Woodson, who is still away from the team, would be able to play when the Raiders start the season at Pittsburgh on Sept. 12. Turner said Sunday that he believed Woodson would be with the team before the preseason ended. But there likely won't be enough time for Woodson to get up to speed with Oakland's new defense in time for the opener.

"Obviously, the longer it goes the harder it is," Turner said. "I've been in situations where a guy came in [and] in a week and could contribute and play. But that was a situation where the guy had been in the same system and knew the calls, knew everything."

"Obviously, when Charles gets here it's going to be harder. It's all new for him." Woodson, tagged in February as Oakland's franchise player, has been unhappy with his current contract status and is reportedly seeking a longterm deal that would make him the highest paid cornerback in the NFL. He has refused to sign the team's one-year tender that would pay him \$8.7 million.

Neither Woodson, his agents, nor Raiders senior personnel executive Mike Lombardi could be reached for comment on Monday.

Oakland is switching from a 4-3 defense to a 3-4 under first-year defensive coordinator Rob Ryan. Woodson did not take part in any of the team's offseason workouts or minicamps and has remained at his home in Houston where he was reportedly working out with a private trainer.

In other camp developments:

Bills: Rookie quarterback J.P. Losman was taken off the roster with an injury to his left ankle. Losman was hurt as he finished a run. As Losman was pulling up,



cornerback Troy Vincent laid a shoulder into his upper body, knocking the quarterback over.

The extent of the injury was unknown on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, running back Travis Henry is listed as day-to-day, opening the door for Willis McGahee to get his chance to be the starter. Henry missed practice on Monday with bruised ribs. While Henry's injury is not described as severe, coach Mike Mularkey said he might not play at Indianapolis on Saturday.

"It's not official, but I'm not going to push him to play if there's any pain at all," Mularkey said. "I'd maybe have a different answer if we were in the regular season. But I'm not going to push that right now. It's just to get him back full strength."

Both Henry and McGahee have said they want to start. And questions intensified last week when The Associated Press, citing a source close to McGahee, reported the player has asked to be traded if he's not the starter on opening day.

The Bills have maintained that Henry is the starter and McGahee will get his share of carries as the backup.

Jets: Defensive end John Abraham will meet with NFL officials Wednesday about a possible second violation of the league's substance-abuse policy.

Abraham already ended under the policy because of a drunk-driving incident last year. He is not permitted to drink alcoholic beverages, but a recent test result showed a high alcohol content.

"John is currently addressing an issue with the NFL that is confidential," his agent, Tony Agnone, said. "However, we can say that this issue will not interfere with his ability to be an active member of the New York Jets this season."

Abraham, a two-time Pro Bowl player, would be subject to a fine amounting to four game checks (about \$340,000) if he violated the policy again. A third strike could result in a suspension of at least four games.

Texans: Defensive end Gary Walker will rest for 7-10 days to allow his strained groin to heal. Walker, a two-time Pro Bowl lineman, tweaked the muscle during practice Monday. An MRI revealed a mild strain.

"He should be ready for the opener," General Manager Charley Casserly said.

Seahawks: Three-time Pro Bowl linebacker Chad Brown broke his left leg during practice Monday.

Coach Mike Holmgren said Brown will undergo surgery as soon as possible and is expected to miss at least four regular-season games. He was hurt getting his feet tangled with tight end Itula Mili.

Ravens: Center Mike Flynn, who has started all but one game since 2000, broke his right collarbone during practice.

Saints: Quarterback Aaron Brooks, who missed the first preseason game, will probably miss a game as a strained foot ligament in the top of his thigh against Green Bay.

Vikings: Wide receiver Marcus Robinson will miss the final two preseason games to rest his problematic left hamstring. Robinson, who signed a four-year, \$9.4 million deal in March to be the team's No. 2 receiver, left practice after tweaking the hamstring.

Jaguars: Running back Fred Taylor will miss Friday's preseason game with Green Bay because of a strained foot, coach Jack Del Rio said Monday.

"He's got a little strain in his foot. It just needs to calm down," Del Rio said. "It's the kind of pain that with rest goes away. There's no sense in him going out and tweaking that or because he's feeling that, that it would lead to something else that would be a disaster."

California, Texas reach U.S. semis

BY DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSSPORT, Pa. — Sidarm curveballs, regular fastballs and even some knuckleballs. No matter the direction or the spin, Jordan Brower was nearly unhittable.

Brower struck out eight and knocked in the winning run to lead Thousand Oaks, Calif., into the United States semifinals with a 3-1 victory over Lincoln, R.I., in the Little League World Series on Tuesday.

"We're the best team in our bracket," said first baseman Danny Leon. "I think we're the team to beat."

Panama, Taiwan, Mexico and Curacao also clinched spots in the semifinals. North Carolina joined California in the United States Series.

Brower settled down after a shaky first inning, retiring 10 straight and looking dominant against a Rhode Island team playing about 12 hours after a 5-4 loss to Morganton, N.C.

"I just came out and threw strikes," said Brower, who effectively mixed his wide array of pitches.

Did he ever. Forty-five of his 59 pitches were strikes. Brower walked none and Rhode Island batters in the late innings were tangled up.

Cody Thomson struck out one in the sixth and earned his first save.

Manager Tom Gintner said Pittsburgh Pirates shortstop Jack



Damon Divozzi (9) of Lincoln, R.I., advances to second on a first-inning single by teammate Jeremy Rhault as Tyler Karp of Thousand Oaks, Calif., takes the relay throw Tuesday in South Williamsport, Pa. Thousand Oaks beat Lincoln 3-1 to advance to the U.S. semifinals.

Wilson, a Thousand Oaks native, called and offered the team VIP treatment for Tuesday's night game against Arizona.

But with an already loaded schedule and a four-hour bus ride to Pittsburgh, Ghini declined.

Texas 13, Maryland 1: Matt Daniels had a homer and four RBIs, and tossed a two-hitter to lead Richmond, Texas, to a 13-1 win over Preston, Md.

Texas (3-0) joined North Carolina and California in the United States semifinals. Maryland is 1-2 and needs help to advance.

Daniels went 3-for-4, adding a double and a run. He also struck out 12 and walked one.

Curacao 3, Saipan 0: Carlos Pineda hit a solo home run in the sixth and contributed two singles to lead Curacao. Curacao finished pool play 3-0. Saipan went 0-3.

Canada 5, Poland 1: Nick Gazo struck out eight in four innings of relief and Alex Baldock hit a solo home run to lead Ottawa. The Canadian team finished pool play with a 1-2 record. Poland was 0-3.

In Monday's games:

California 10, Iowa 0: Sean McIntyre struck out eight, then drove in the game-winning run as California (2-0) routed Davenport (Iowa) Northwest 10-0, in five innings. The loss eliminated Iowa (0-3) from playoff consideration.

Mexico 6, Saipan 3: Oscar Garza and Ismael Garcia each hit a home run play Mexican, which finished pool play 2-1. R-Jay Joe homered for Saipan (0-2).

Curacao 6, Saudi Arabia 1: Juckrickson Profar struck out six batters to lead Curacao (2-0) into Wednesday's International semifinal round.

North Carolina 5, Rhode Island 4: Chris Fine hit a two-run homer and Eli Lawson also homered to lead Morganton. Trevor Tallent earned the win, allowing three hits and two runs in four innings.

Taiwan 7, Canada 2: Chao Wei-Sheng and Chen Hung-Ta combined to drive in four runs for Taiwan. Chi-Hung capped the scoring for Taiwan with a two-out solo homer in the fourth inning.

Bryant case in Iowa trial moves into spotlight

BY STEVEN K. PAULSON
The Associated Press

DENVER — Residents of Eagle County are a diverse lot: 23 percent Hispanic, 0.3 percent black. Forty-three percent of them are college graduates. And attorneys in the Kobe Bryant rape case would love to know what they are thinking right now.

Summonses went out last month ordering 999 potential jurors from the county to show up for duty this Friday, with opening statements not expected until Sept. 7.

So, how to find an impartial jury in a case that has been in the news for more than a year and included headlines about the accuser's sex life and Bryant's hospital care?

Jury consultant Joseph Rice of the Jury Research Institute in Walnut Creek, Calif., said some jurors might be so turned off by the tawdry details they they won't want to blame and might try to apply their own values to the case. Prosecutors and defense attorneys will try to eliminate those candidates before the trial begins.

"Some may want to blame Kobe and say it must be rape because a normal person wouldn't do this," Rice said. "Others might say 'Look at her, she asked for it.' This trial has layers upon layers of issues."

If convicted of felony sexual assault, Bryant, 26, faces four years in life in prison or 20 years in life on probation, and a fine up to \$750,000. The Los Angeles Lakers star has said he had consensual sex with the woman, then 19, at a Vail-area resort last year.

Eagle County residents mirror the nation in some respects: The population is 74.2 percent white, just ahead of the national figure of 69.1 percent, and it is 45.2 percent female (50.9 percent nationally).

But they are better educated than the general public (only 24.4 percent of the U.S. population holds at least a bachelor's degree) and the county's median household income is nearly \$62,700 (\$42,000 nationally). They have a median age of 31.

Igdi D'Andrea, a jury consultant for Bonora D'Andrea of San Francisco, said recent mistakes in the case may have led the judge to allow more questioning of potential jurors.

Among the mistakes: Court-house staff have twice posted the accuser's name on a state court Web site and the judge lost a battle with the media and released nearly 200 pages of documents from a closed hearing on the woman's sexual activities.

"It's really hard to unring the bell, once that bell has been rung, and the media is going to tell what they've heard," D'Andrea said.

Both sides are expected to see if potential jurors are prejudiced because Bryant is black and the alleged victim is white and whether they believe a rich basketball player thought he didn't have to play by the rules.

Rice said attorneys are wary about putting women on a rape case jury because they can be angry at their own gender. He said women are quick to blame the victim and look for faults, from their dress to their behavior.

"Female jurors can be the worst for women," Rice said.

Former Colorado aide indicted in recruiting investigation

The Associated Press

DENVER — A grand jury investigation into whether booze and sex were used to entice Colorado football recruits ended with an indictment against just one person — a former low-level school employee accused Tuesday of soliciting a prostitute for himself.

The grand jury accused only Nathan Maxcey in its indictment, making no mention of university officials, students or recruits. It decided against an indictment on a charge of "pimping," which accused the recruiting aide of setting up prostitutes for recruits at a dorm room and hotels used by the Colorado football program.

"This appears to be good news for the University of Colorado athletic department," said attorney Craig Silverman, who has followed the investigation. "It appears that this investigation has fizzled out."

The indictments were handed up last week after three months of testimony, but were not made public until Tuesday.

Attorney General Ken Salazar said in a statement that other matters relating to the investigation

Sports briefs

were still pending, but he did not elaborate.

Maxcey, 28, did not immediately return a call, and a woman who answered the phone at the Texas home of his parents said the family would not comment.

Maxcey is charged with misdemeanor solicitation for prostitution and two felonies: embezzlement of public property and theft, both related to allegations he used a school cell phone to call a dating chat line.

The charges are the first stemming from a scandal that erupted early this year after three women filed lawsuits alleging they were raped by football recruits or players who attended an off-campus party in December 2001.

Since 1997, nine women have made similar allegations.

U.S. beats Team Canada in hockey exhibition

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Hockey is back in North America, even if it's only for the 22 days of the World Cup.

Bill Guerin, Brian Rolston and Jordan Leopold scored goals and Brian Leach had two assists as Team USA beat Canada 3-1 Monday night in a World Cup exhibition game.

"It's always big for any team to beat Canada," Guerin said.

The United States, which won the previous World Cup tournament in 1996, got off to a slow start but dominated the final two periods. Canada did not get off a shot in the first 12:22 of the third period.

"We're three days from skating around by ourselves and being on the beach," Leach said. "You never know what to expect."

After three exhibition games — a rematch Wednesday night against Canada in Ottawa and back in Columbus against Russia on Friday — the United States opens play Aug. 31 against Canada in Montreal.

The World Cup championship game is scheduled for Sept. 14 in Toronto.

That's the night before the NHL's collective bargaining agreement expires. A lockout that threatens next season is a distinct possibility.

Stanley Cup temporarily missing in luggage mishap

FORT ST. JOHN, British Columbia — The Stanley Cup spent Sunday night in luggage limbo.

The trophy disappeared during an air Canada flight from Vancouver to Fort St. John over the weekend when Vancouver airline officials removed it from the plane because of weight restrictions.

Walter Neubrand, keeper of the Cup, was delivering the trophy to Jake Goertzen, head coach of the Stanley Cup champion Tampa Bay Lightning.

As they waited by the baggage claim, it didn't take long for them to realize something was wrong.

"We were waiting for it to come out," Goertzen said. "Everybody's bag was there, except the Cup."

Air Canada agents checked the plane but there was no sign of the Cup or its travel container.

After a call to Vancouver, they learned the 35-pound Cup was sitting in the Vancouver airport's luggage area 750 miles away. It was too heavy to fly.

Air Canada spokeswoman

Laura Cooke said the Cup was held in a secured facility overnight and flown to Fort St. John to be "placed in its rightful hands" early Monday. Cooke said the airline is reviewing how the mistake occurred.

Bucks re-sign Kucuk

MILWAUKEE — The Milwaukee Bucks on Monday re-signed forward Tony Kukoc after two productive seasons with the team.

Kukoc, acquired from the Atlanta Hawks after the 2002 season for forward Glen Robinson, averaged 9.9 points, 3.9 rebounds and 3.2 assists per game in two seasons for Milwaukee.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Crew, Sannah agree to deal

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Columbus Crew agreed to terms Monday with defender Tony Sannah on a multiyear contract.

The Crew were awaiting final international clearance from Sannah's club in Germany, FC Nuremberg, to complete the deal, team spokesman Jeff Wuerth said.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Gold at last for El Guerrouj; Hayes sets hurdles record

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Hicham El Guerrouj kissed the track that had finally yielded a gold medal. Joanna Hayes covered her mouth in shock. Roman Sebire pulled off his shoes and collapsed to the track, chest heaving.

And Yelena Izbayeva soared where no woman had gone before, screaming in midair as she easily broke her own pole vault world record Tuesday to win a classic duel with a Russian compatriot.

After heart-breaking losses in the previous two Olympics, El Guerrouj won gold in the 1,500 meters by holding off Kenya's Bernard Lagat in a dramatic tie of wills on the homestretch. Four years ago El Guerrouj was edged by another Kenyan, and in 1996 he fell on the last lap.

El Guerrouj defeated Lagat by 12 seconds, then knelted as other runners came over to hug and caress the sobbing Moroccan. On his victory lap, the flag-draped El Guerrouj did an impromptu

Track and field

dance to Greek music playing over the loudspeakers. Hayes and Sebire both won gold medals and set Olympic records — Hayes in the 100-meter hurdles and Sebire in the grueling decathlon. But while Sebire's victory was a coronation, Hayes' came as a surprise.

Hurdles world champion Perdita Felicien caused a violent crash just steps into the race when she stepped on the first hurdle and tumbled into the runner in the lane beside her. Both were knocked out of the race, paving the way for Hayes, an American, to win in 12.37 seconds.

Sebire finished with 8,893 points, breaking by 46 points the Olympic record set 20 years ago by Daley Thompson. He walked slowly around the track to celebrate, barefoot and wrapped in a Czech flag. The silver medal went to American Bryan Clay.

Other winners Tuesday were Torнике Williams-Darling of the Bahamas in the 400 and Ezekiel Kemboi, who led a Kenyan medal sweep in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

El Guerrouj and Lagat traded the lead several times in the final 100 meters. Both gritted their teeth as they ran side by side until El Guerrouj's final push carried him about a foot ahead of the Kenyan. The winning time was 3 minutes, 34.18 seconds. Rui Silva of Portugal took the bronze.

El Guerrouj quickly was surrounded by his opponents — who gently lifted him from the track each time he knelt down in disbelief.

Izbayeva, who cleared 16 feet, 1 1/4 inches with room to spare, had only smiles. She ran into the stands and then pranced around the track. She has set four world records in the past two months.

Second in the pole vault was her countrywoman, Svetlana Feofanova. Anna Rogowska of Po-

land took the bronze. All broke the Olympic record in an event that debuted four years ago.

In the hurdles, Olena Krasovska of Ukraine won silver in 12.45.

Melissa Morrison of the United States was third in 12.56. It was the second straight bronze for Morrison, who also was third in the 2003 Sydney Games.

The old Olympic record of 12.38 was set by Bulgaria's Yordanka Donkova in the 1988 Seoul Games.

Felicien, a Canadian who was an NCAA champion at Illinois, hit the first hurdle and tumbled into Russia's Irina Shevchenko. After watching the rest of the race sitting beneath a hurdle, Felicien walked to the finish line, then sat on the track watching with a grimace as Hayes and Morrison took a victory lap wrapped in American flags.

"The first hurdle came up and I reached for it way too much. I probably should have waited until the middle of the race to try

to come back. I didn't have a great start and before I knew it I was on the ground and I could not believe it. There's no coming back from that," Felicien said.

"I'm devastated. I don't think this is going to sink in. I think it's going to take four years for it to sink in."

The Russian Olympic Federation protested the result of the hurdles race.

In the decathlon, Clay finished just 71 points off the American record, totaling 8,820. The bronze medal went to Dmitry Karpov of Kazakhstan with 8,725.

The world champion, American Tom Pappas, expected to be a star in his ancestral Greek homeland, withdrew during the pole vault portion of the event Tuesday because of a left foot injury. He was in fifth place at that point, with little chance of medaling.

Allison Felix won her semifinal heat in 22.36 in the women's 200, and Shawn Crawford led three Americans into the semifinals of the men's 200.

Iraq soccer team loses to Paraguay

BY DAVID CRARY

The Associated Press

THESSALONIKI, Greece — The Iraqi soccer team's improbable run at an Olympic gold medal ended Tuesday night with a 3-1 semifinal loss to Paraguay. The Iraqis still have a chance for a bronze, which would be their war-weary nation's first medal in 44 years.

Paraguay made history of its own, getting two goals from Jose Cardozo and one from Freddy Bareiro to advance to Saturday's gold-medal game against Argentina, a 3-0 winner over Italy. Gold or silver, it will be the first Olympic medal of any sort for Paraguay.

Iraq and Italy will play for the bronze Friday night.

Just qualifying for the Olympics was a feat for the Iraqis, who have been unable to play home games since war began in March 2003.

They clinched a berth in May, just three months after their country was reinstated by the International Olympic Committee.

The team's first-round victories over Portugal and Costa Rica and quarterfinal win over Australia enchanted fans worldwide and gave beleaguered Iraqi citizens a rare cause for unified jubilation. Players said they were inspired by the support from home, but also sobered by knowledge of their compatriots' hardships.

The Iraqis played with pluck, forcing Paraguay goalkeeper Diego Barreto to make several acrobatic saves. But they could not contain Cardozo, at 34 one of the oldest players in the tournament.

A bronze medal won by an Iraqi weightlifter in 1960 is the only medal in the country's history.

Hungarian stripped of gold medal in men's discus for doping violation

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The Hungarian gold medalist in the men's discus was stripped of his title Tuesday for failing to provide a drug test sample in an apparent attempt to beat the screening system.

Robert Fazekas, who won the discus on Monday night with an Olympic record throw of 232 feet, 8 inches, was disqualified from the competition and expelled from the Games by the International Olympic Committee executive board.

He is the second athlete in two days to lose a gold medal for doping. Russian shot putter Irina Kozhanchikova's gold was revoked Monday after she tested positive for steroids.

In another case Tuesday in the drug-tainted Games, Belarusian high jumper Aleksey Lesnichy was kicked out after testing positive for the steroid clenbuterol. The IOC said. He failed to clear a height in Friday's qualifying round.

Olympic briefs

Fazekas never got to wear the gold medal because the award ceremony should have waited until the middle of the race to try

to come back. I didn't have a great start and before I knew it I was on the ground and I could not believe it. There's no coming back from that," Felicien said.

"I'm devastated. I don't think this is going to sink in. I think it's going to take four years for it to sink in."

The Russian Olympic Federation protested the result of the hurdles race.

In the decathlon, Clay finished just 71 points off the American record, totaling 8,820. The bronze medal went to Dmitry Karpov of Kazakhstan with 8,725.

The world champion, American Tom Pappas, expected to be a star in his ancestral Greek homeland, withdrew during the pole vault portion of the event Tuesday because of a left foot injury. He was in fifth place at that point, with little chance of medaling.

Allison Felix won her semifinal heat in 22.36 in the women's 200, and Shawn Crawford led three Americans into the semifinals of the men's 200.

Greek judo champion dies two weeks after fall

ATHENS, Greece — A member of the Greek judo team who fell from her third-floor apartment balcony following a quarrel with her boyfriend has died. Eleni Ioannu had been hospitalized in critical condition for more than two weeks.

The Red Cross hospital said Ioannu, 20, died in the intensive care unit where she had been

fractured to her head and body. Ioannu, a competitor in the 172-pound-plus class, fell from the balcony after an argument with her boyfriend, 24-year-old George Christodoulos.

Police questioned Christodoulos and released him. Relatives and neighbors said he was uncontrollable, jumped from the same balcony two days later. He remains hospitalized in critical condition at Athens' Evangelismos hospital.

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Golden sands for Mays, Walsh

U.S. women blast Brazil in beach volleyball final

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Misty May and Kerri Walsh made it look easy, in the end.

The top-ranked American beach volleyball pair defeated second-seeded Brazilians Shelda Bede and Adriana Behar 21-17, 21-11 on Tuesday night, capping the most dominant run in the sport's history with a gold medal.

Earlier, Americans Holly McPeak and Elaine Youngs won the bronze medal, beating Australia's Natalie Cook and Nicole Sanderson 21-18, 15-21, 15-9.

May and Walsh didn't drop a set in Athens, with the 6-foot-3 Walsh dominating at the net and the quick May scrambling and diving for every dig.

On match point in a surprising, lopsided final, Walsh hammered a spike just inside in the line. Walsh left her knees as May ran to embrace her. They raced to the stands and grabbed American flags as "Born in the USA" blared over the speakers at the Olympics' rowdiest venue.

May and Walsh have been gold-medal favorites since last year, when they began an unprecedented 90-match, 15-tournament winning streak.

The streak ended in June, the week after May pulled an abdominal muscle.

Cycling

Men's points race: Colby Pearce finished in 14th place as America continued its struggles in cycling.

Mikhail Ignatyev, a relatively unknown 19-year-old Russian, lapped the field four times and finished the race with 93 points to collect his nation's first cycling gold medal of the Games.

Defending gold medalist and three-time world champion Joan Llaneras of Spain was second, and Germany's Guido Fulst third.

"It was a great experience to be here," Pearce said. "I'm not going to let the fact that I didn't medal ruin that."

Men's sprint: Australia's Ryan Bayley won the gold medal by

Medals roundup

beating world champion Theo Bos of the Netherlands.

Women's sprint: Lori-Anne Muenzer became the first Canadian to claim a cycling gold medal at the Olympics.

Diving

Men's 3-meter springboard: Peng Bo held off Canadian teenager Alexandre Despatie and four-time Olympian Dmitri Sautin of Russia to give the Chinese men their third straight gold medal in the event.

Overall, the Chinese have won four diving golds in Athens. The Americans have yet to win a medal of any color, setting up the possibility of their first Olympic diving shutout since 1912.

Equestrian

Team jumping: Germany clinched its third team gold in as many Olympics, followed by the



USA's Holly McPeak returns a spike Tuesday in Athens. McPeak and partner Elaine Youngs beat Australia to win the bronze medal.

United States and Sweden for silver and bronze.

Weightlifting

Men's 105kg: Ferenc Gyurkovics of Hungary set an Olympic record by raising 429 pounds (195kg) in the snatch on his way to the silver medal.

Dmitri Berestov of Russia took the gold medal with a total of 935 pounds (425kg), 11 pounds (5kg) more than Gyurkovics in the overall competition.

Equestrian

Team Jumping
1. Germany (Ludger Beesmans, Goldfinger; Marco Turesson, Mortimer; Otto Becker, Cotto Christian Amann, Cortes), 8-4, 5.
2. United States (Chris Kaprielian, Pittman; N.Y. Royal, Ruben; Beez Madden, Cazenovia, N.Y.; Authentic, McLain Ward, Breuer; Sophie, Peter Wink, J. Bruce Swenson), 8-4, 5.
3. Netherlands (Ger-Jan Bruggink, Jelle; W. Schenck, Carino King, Jessica Kouten; Fliche Rocco; Gerco Schröder, Monaco), 8-4, 5.
4. Switzerland (Christina Lieberher, Nori; Marco Fabbio, Cristina, Mine Pompadour; Maria Fuchs; Tina's Boy; Steve Gaudin, Olympic), 12-14, 25.
5. Belgium (Jos Lansink, Cusano; Ludolph Philippaerts, Parice Dirk Gommersman, Clinton; Sjaan van Paesschen, O de Pommle), 12-14, 25.
6. Ireland (Marion Hughes, Fortunus; Mark Cryan, Carino King, Jessica Kouten; Castle Force Markie; Glen O'Connor, Albert R. Dwyer), 12-14, 25.
7. Italy (Juan Carlos Garcia Triana, Wabbin; Bruno, Chimmi; Landreucht, Vincenzo Chimmi; Del Piattino; Roberto Anzoli, Dime De La Cour), 12-14, 25, 44.

Men's soccer

Tuesday, Aug. 24
Semifinals
1. Germany 2-0 Argentina, 3-0 Paraguay, 1-0 Brazil.
At Kafan Stadium, Tashkent
Italy vs. Iraq
Saturday, Aug. 28
Gold medal
At Olympic Stadium
Argentina vs. Paraguay

Track and field

100m
1. Michael E. Brown, Jamaica, 9.78.
2. Bernard Rapp, Germany, 9.84.
3. Maurice Greene, Jamaica, 9.89.
4. Timothy L. Smith, Jamaica, 9.95.
5. Maurice Greene, Jamaica, 9.95.
6. Michael East, Britain, 9.96.
7. Maurice Greene, Jamaica, 9.97.
8. Jerriek Kembo, Kenya, 9.98.
9. Paul Kusile, Kenya, 9.98.
10. Maurice Greene, Jamaica, 9.98.
11. Maurice Greene, Jamaica, 9.98.
12. Maurice Greene, Jamaica, 9.98.
13. Maurice Greene, Jamaica, 9.98.
14. Maurice Greene, Jamaica, 9.98.
15. Maurice Greene, Jamaica, 9.98.
16. Maurice Greene, Jamaica, 9.98.
17. Maurice Greene, Jamaica, 9.98.
18. Maurice Greene, Jamaica, 9.98.
19. Maurice Greene, Jamaica, 9.98.
20. Maurice Greene, Jamaica, 9.98.

Olympics scoreboard

Tuesday's scores	
BASEBALL	
Australia 1, Japan 0	Semifinals
Cuba 6, Canada 5	
BASKETBALL	
Men	
11th Place	Serbia-Montenegro 85, Angola 82
12th Place	Australia 98, New Zealand 80
Women	
11th Place	Nigeria 68, South Korea 64
12th Place	China 82, Japan 63

FIELD HOCKEY

Women	
Classification	
New Zealand 3, South Korea 2	Quarterfinals
Australia 3, Japan 1	
Men	
Semifinals	
Netherlands 2, Argentina 2 (4-2)	
Germany 6, China 0 (4-3)	
Women	
Semifinals	
Argentina 3, Italy 0	
Paraguay 3, Viet 1	
TEAM HANDBALL	
Men	
11th Place	
Slovenia 30, Egypt 24	

Ibis Tek

Holly McPeak and Kerri Walsh, Calif., and Elaine Youngs, El Toro, Calif. def. Natalie Cook and Nicole Sanderson, Australia, 21-18, 15-21, 15-9.

Gold medal
Kerri Walsh, Santa Monica, Calif., and Misty May, Newport Beach, Calif. vs. Adriana Behar and Shelda Bede, Brazil, 21-17, 21-11.

Cycling
Men's sprint
Bronze medal
René Wolff, Germany, def. Laurent Gane, France, 16-10.77, 16-10.72.

Gold medal
Ryan Bayley, Australia, def. Theo Bos, Netherlands, 1:10.10, 1:10.61, 1:10.73.

Points race
Final
1. Mikhail Ignatyev, Russia, 93.
2. Joan Llaneras, Spain, 82.
3. Guido Fulst, Germany, 79.
4. Greg Henderson, New Zealand, 68.
5. Milan Kadlec, Czech Republic, 65.
6. Mark Barker, Australia, 58.
7. Peter Schep, Netherlands, 45.
8. Angelo Ciccone, Italy, 45.

U.S. finisher
Colby Pearce, Butler, Colo., 23.

Women's sprint
Bronze medal
Lori-Anne Muenzer, Canada, def. Tamilla Abassova, Russia, 12-12.16, 12-12.40.

Diving
Men's 3-meter springboard
1. Peng Bo, China, 476.25, 1, 521.21, 78.73.
2. Alexandre Despatie, Canada, 3 (2.34), 75.37.
3. Dmitri Sautin, Russia, 1, 259.38, 4, 456.89, 75.37.
4. Fyodorov Fabrice Fabrice Alvarez, Mexico (7, 232.02, 5, 47.23), 70.45.
5. Fyodorov Fabrice Fabrice Alvarez, Mexico (7, 232.02, 5, 47.23), 70.45.
6. Fyodorov Fabrice Fabrice Alvarez, Mexico (7, 232.02, 5, 47.23), 70.45.
7. Fyodorov Fabrice Fabrice Alvarez, Mexico (7, 232.02, 5, 47.23), 70.45.
8. Fyodorov Fabrice Fabrice Alvarez, Mexico (7, 232.02, 5, 47.23), 70.45.
9. Fyodorov Fabrice Fabrice Alvarez, Mexico (7, 232.02, 5, 47.23), 70.45.
10. Fyodorov Fabrice Fabrice Alvarez, Mexico (7, 232.02, 5, 47.23), 70.45.

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Grip: Hamm fighting to keep gold

GRIP, FROM BACK PAGE

That leaves Hamm in limbo.

"It is not my responsibility to deal with it," he said. "My responsibility is to those gymnastics, and it's up to these governing bodies to deal with these matters. For them to put the pressure on the athletes, I think is wrong."

The constant complaining has overshadowed what the athletes have done on the floor.

The Americans won nine medals in Athens, more than they got at the last two Olympics combined. Hamm and his teammates became the first U.S. men's squad to win an Olympic medal since 1984 when they took silver, and Hamm also won silver on the high bar. Carly Patterson was the first U.S. woman since Mary Lou Retton to win the all-around, and she also won a silver on balance beam.

Annia Hatch won silver on vault, while Tim Humphrey and Courtney Kupets won silver and bronze on the uneven bars.

8. Ali Ezdine, Morocco, 8:15.58.
9. Daniel Iancu, Romania, 8:16.00.
10. Roman Sberb, Romania, 8:16.00.
11. Bryan Jay, Austria, 8:16.00.
12. Oleg Kapov, Kazakhstan, 8:16.00.
13. Dean Mearns, Britain, 8:16.00.
14. Oleg Kapov, Kazakhstan, 8:16.00.
15. Oleg Kapov, Kazakhstan, 8:16.00.
16. Oleg Kapov, Kazakhstan, 8:16.00.
17. Oleg Kapov, Kazakhstan, 8:16.00.
18. Oleg Kapov, Kazakhstan, 8:16.00.
19. Oleg Kapov, Kazakhstan, 8:16.00.
20. Oleg Kapov, Kazakhstan, 8:16.00.

Other U.S. finishers
1. Paul Tiedt, Canada, 8:16.00.
2. Paul Tiedt, Canada, 8:16.00.
3. Paul Tiedt, Canada, 8:16.00.
4. Paul Tiedt, Canada, 8:16.00.
5. Paul Tiedt, Canada, 8:16.00.
6. Paul Tiedt, Canada, 8:16.00.
7. Paul Tiedt, Canada, 8:16.00.
8. Paul Tiedt, Canada, 8:16.00.
9. Paul Tiedt, Canada, 8:16.00.
10. Paul Tiedt, Canada, 8:16.00.

100 hurdles
1. Oleg Kapov, Kazakhstan, 12:37.
2. Oleg Kapov, Kazakhstan, 12:37.
3. Oleg Kapov, Kazakhstan, 12:37.
4. Oleg Kapov, Kazakhstan, 12:37.
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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

U.S. women draw toughest test

Undefeated Spain awaits Team USA in quarters

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — When a day of drama had ended and the quarterfinal pairings were set, the news was not great for the United States.

In order to get to the semifinals and possibly the gold medal game, first the U.S. will have to defeat Spain — the team that left the widest wake of impressed and defeated opponents during the preliminary round.

"I don't know anything about them," Tim Duncan said of Spain after the Americans cruised past Angola 89-53 to finish the opening round with a record of 3-2. Here's the scoop, Timmy: The Spaniards have finesse yet are physical, they're led by an NBA player who's tougher than they looks, and they usually shoot three-pointers the same way your teammates do — not all that well.

Spain's players had an opportunity Monday to take it easy against New Zealand, lose a game and thereby knock Serbia-Montenegro out of medal contention. Instead, they banged bodies as though it was a wrestling match, won by four points and left Serbia-Montenegro self-destruct later in the day, when China defeated the defending world champions 67-66 and advance to the quarterfinals while relegating Serbia-Montenegro to the 11th place consolation game.

Thursday's other quarterfinals match Lithuania-China, Italy-Puerto Rico, and Greece-Australia.



Forward Pau Gasol, who plays for the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies, averaged 18.2 points and 7.6 rebounds a game for Spain (5-0) in the preliminary round.

"We went out and tried to get the victory for the respect of the competition, the respect of our rivals and the respect of ourselves," Spain coach Mario Pesquera said. "There's also another important factor. When you have a winning streak like we have, it's a little dangerous to break it."

Spain (5-0) won all of its tuneup games before the Olympics, and the Americans would be ill-advised to underestimate them. "Spain dominated our group," New Zealand coach Tab Baldwin said. "I think any team going against Spain has probably got to be considered an underdog."

The Americans are likely to learn that you can't spell "Spain" without "pain."

In a game marked by hard fouls and confrontations, Spain's Carlos Jimenez made two free throws for a four-point lead with 12.4 seconds left after an intentional foul on New Zealand's Dillon Boucher, who violently threw Jimenez to the floor.

The intentional foul allowed Spain to retain possession, and the four-point lead was key as Pau Gasol — who plays for the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies — missed a pair of free throws with 9 seconds left.

The Americans' game couldn't have been more different.

Duncan scored a team-high 15 points in only 13 minutes, and the U.S. dominated the boards Barcelona-style with a 52-17 edge in rebounding.

"The only negative, I thought, was we turned the ball over a lot (12 times) in the first half, which has plagued us a lot in this tournament," coach Larry Brown said. The U.S. lost to Puerto Rico and Lithuania in the opening round and defeated Greece, Australia and Angola. Under point differential tiebreakers, the U.S. finished fourth in its group behind Greece (3-2) and Puerto Rico (3-2).

"I'm really confident in the way we've been playing," Duncan said. "We wish we could have won some more and played better against Lithuania and all that good stuff, but we did it and we're in the position we're in right now, and we're happy with where we're at."



U.S. super heavyweight Jason Estrada, right, receives a blow from Cuba's Michel Lopez Nunez during the quarterfinals at the Peristeri boxing hall in Athens on Monday. Lopez Nunez won the match. Only two boxers from the nine-member U.S. team are still competing.

Other than Ward,

U.S. boxers a bust

Light heavyweight guaranteed a medal

BY TIM DAHLBERG
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Just when all seemed lost for the U.S. boxing team, Andre Ward remembered what his late father said about big fights and bigger fighters.

It was a lesson some of his teammates apparently never learned.

"My father always told me that in big fights you have to rise to the occasion," Ward said. "That's what great fighters do."

Ward did just that Tuesday night, saving the U.S. boxing team from its most embarrassing Olympics ever by upsetting two-time world champion Evgeny Makarenko of Russia in a light heavyweight bout few gave him a chance to win.

Ward was smaller, less experienced and entered the ring to resounding boos from the crowd.

By the time he left, though, he had guaranteed himself at least a bronze medal — and quite possibly made himself a favorite for the gold.

"Hopefully we can bring some pride back to the USA," Ward said.

That pride was seriously lacking a day earlier in a halfhearted effort by super heavyweight Jason Estrada. But Ward finally gave U.S. coaches something to smile about against a fighter who towered over him in the ring.

Ward pictured the fight as a modern day version of David vs. Goliath, then went out and played David to perfection by moving and punching, staying inside and frustrating the 6-foot-6 Russian.

By the time the final seconds ticked away, he had a 23-16 decision that put him in a semifinal fight Friday against Uzbek Haydarov of Uzbekistan.

"This victory is already behind me. I don't have time to relish it," said Ward, whose father died two years ago. "I've still got two tough fights left."

Ward and middleweight Andre Dirrell were the only two Americans left in the boxing competition, and the United States was looking at the possibility of being shut out of medals for the first time ever in the Olympics.

But Ward made sure the team would at least tie the 1948 team — which won one medal — with perhaps the biggest upset of the tournament so far. Dirrell fights Wednesday against Cuba's Yordani Desaigne.

"He patched the wound up," U.S. coach Basheer Abdullah said. "He felt the pain and gave us some relief."

Ward, who is devoutly religious, said he spent much of the day praying about his fight and reading about David and Goliath.

"Everybody I fight is supposed to be bigger and stronger than me," Ward said.

The analogy was a good one for a fighter who is basically one of the tallest taller Makarenkos.

Ward hadn't lost a fight in six years of amateur boxing, but he had little international experience and had never faced a fighter like Makarenko. U.S. coaches drew up detailed fight plans for other boxers, but decided to simply let Ward be himself in this fight, and use his unorthodox style to his advantage.

It worked from the opening bell on, with Ward negating the Russian's reach by moving quickly inside to throw one or two quick punches, then moving outside again. When the Russian would land, Ward would tie him up, then try to punch him coming out of the break.

"The strategy was going to be just move away from his right hand, but we decided to just let Andre be himself," Abdullah said.

"He boxed a beautiful bout."

U.S. women's basketball team finally

should see a crowd at game vs. Greece

BY CHUCK SCHOFFNER
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The U.S. women's basketball team will see something different in its next game.

Fans. Lots and lots of fans. Noisy, boisterous fans waving flags, clapping and stomping their feet. And almost all of them cheering for the opponent.

When the Americans play Greece in the quarterfinal of the medal round Wednesday, they'll be the visiting team in the truest sense.

They're in their own country and you can add 10 to 15 points on top of what they're going to do," Dawn Staley said. "You have to be ready for the crowd. We know they're going to play over and beyond what they usually play."

Even that probably won't be enough to sideline a U.S. team focused on winning a third straight Olympic gold medal. But it could make things a little more challenging for the Americans.

Boisterous Greek fans turned out in huge numbers when their teams played in the preliminaries at the Helliniko Indoor Arena, which seats about 12,000. Now

there will be room for even more of them because the remaining games are at the 19,250-seat Olympic Indoor Hall.

These people love their sports and love their country, so it should be a lot of fun," Diana Taurasi said.

Fans for the United States comes from winning, and that's all the Americans have done so far. They romped through the preliminary round, winning their five games by an average of 29 points with dominant inside play and aggressive defense that produced easy baskets from steals and turnovers.

Not many folks have seen their show, however, at least in person. The biggest crowd for a U.S. game was 2,000. The game with the Czech Republic drew a paltry 954. Taurasi's Connecticut teams used to draw bigger crowds for pickup games.

"I thought the crowds would be a little bit bigger but, for the most part, I think they're being great," Taurasi said. "As the games get more important, I think more people will start coming out."

The games certainly are more important now — lose Wednesday and any hope of a medal is kaput — and with Greece playing, the place should rock.



Team USA's Diana Taurasi, right, was accosted by a crowd in front of larger crowds at Olympic than the United States' preliminary round games in Athens.

"I think the atmosphere is going to be great, not only for Greece, but also for USA Basketball," Yolanda Griffith said. "But we can't get too high or upset by the crowd. This is their home court, so we have to keep our momentum and not let the crowd get to us and just execute offensively like we're capable of doing."

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS



The U.S. softball team lifts coach Mike Candrea after winning the gold medal on Monday.

Dominant U.S. perhaps detrimental to softball

BY TOM WITHERS

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Down to possibly its last strike at the tender age of eight, Olympic softball suddenly has a new problem: An American Dream Team that can't find any anyone to swing with.

Sound familiar? Like the U.S. men's basketball squad did in 1992 in Barcelona, the softball team overwhelmed the competition at these Games. The Americans outscored the field 51-1, doing it with poise, precision and pop never seen before.

"It's going to be tough to match what they did," Australian coach Simon Roskivist said after the U.S. claimed its third straight gold medal with a 5-1 win over the Aussies on Monday. "But now it's up to the rest of the world to get after them, and that's going to be a challenge."

If not for the Aussies scoring a run in the sixth inning of the final, the U.S. team would have put up nine zeros in nine games — a perfect Olympics. The Americans broke virtually every team record, tied others and set individual marks in offensive, defensive and pitching categories.

They were as dominant as any team, in any sport, at any time.

"This team got it done," said pitcher Lisa Fernandez, who now has three gold medals and might go for a fourth in Beijing. "Our game never changed because of what the scoreboard said."

That is a problem.

Two years ago, the International Olympic Committee recommended softball be dumped from the Olympics in 2008. The reason: The U.S. team was too dominant; Europeans didn't play softball or understand it; games were too long; there was little scoring and minimal media coverage.

The International Softball Federation countered by moving back the pitcher's mound 3 feet, the fences 20 feet and instituting the eighth-inning "breakover" in which teams begin their at-bat with a runner at second base — all changes designed to bring competitive global balance.

The ISF also challenged the IOC's scrutiny

by pointing out that softball is played in 124 countries, gets consistently higher TV ratings than other sports and has never had a doping problem.

Softball is safe for now, guaranteed a spot through '08. After that, golf or rugby could take its place inside the rings.

Sadly, the U.S. team may have hurt softball's future. The other softball-playing nations are trailing the Americans — badly.

"It's hard to imagine being really good at something as being a bad thing," said catcher Stacey Neuveman, who hit one of the U.S. team's three home runs against Australia. "In our country, in our culture, the goal is to be the best you can be."

"If that's bad, then shame on the world," ISF President Don Porter said having a U.S. super team is a mixed blessing.

"There is a concern, certainly, but I don't want to take anything away from what this team has accomplished," he said. "We have to work harder to help other countries develop their softball programs, and we're doing that in many ways."

Porter said the ISF has given equipment to send to nations such as China, Russia and North Korea, handing them the tools needed to get up to speed with a U.S. team clearly above the rest.

Because right now, there is no other player like Natasha Watley. The U.S. team's leadoff hitter who wreaks havoc with her slap singles and speed. There is no power hitter like America's Crystal Bustos, who launched two home runs in the gold medal game, including a 330-footer.

And there is still not a better player on the planet than Fernandez. She went 4-0 and batted .845 in her third and best Olympics, driven by a desire to help ease the pain for U.S. coach Mike Candrea, whose wife, Sue, died on the eve of the Games.

The world has shown it can catch up. In '92, it seemed impossible to think it would ever happen in basketball. But the U.S. hoopers may not win a medal in Greece. Other countries learned how to shoot and pass a leather ball better.

Now, they have to figure out how to hit a smaller, yellow one.

U.S. seeks fitting finale for women soccer vets
Americans to play Brazil for gold

BY JOSEPH WHITE

The Associated Press

IRAKLION, Greece — Julie Foudy left the game with a limp, and then the stadium on crutches, her spunky attitude nearly as big as the bandage wrapped around her sprained right ankle.

"I think I'll just have them chop it off, and I'll drag my stump out there if I have to," the captain of the U.S. women's soccer team said.

Nice try, but unless the ankle heals in a hurry, the Fab Five will be without a key member Thursday when they play for the gold medal.

Foudy's injury was one of several head-smacking developments late in a game that had been going the Americans' way. After giving up a last-gasp goal and blowing an easy scoring chance in overtime, the U.S. team finally beat World Cup champion Germany 2-1 Monday night on Heather O'Reilly's goal nine minutes into the extra period.

The win gives the Fab Five — long-standing stars Mia Hamm, Joy Fawcett, Brandi Chastain, Kristine Lilly and Foudy — a chance to go out as champions in their final tournament together.

"The whole year it's kind of been our focus," said O'Reilly, the youngest player on the roster. "What these women have done for the last 10 years has been remarkable, and this is it for some of them. As young players, we wouldn't be happy putting them out with anything but a gold."

The Americans face an interesting rematch with Brazil, a 1-0 winner over Sweden, for the Olympic title Thursday in Athens.

Brazil's coach accused the U.S. team of deliberately trying to hurt his players in a 2-0 loss last week in the first round.

Germany will play Sweden in the bronze medal game.

Even though the young players on the U.S. team had spoken of their mission to send the veterans out on top, the vets themselves and coach April Heinrichs had downplayed the topic because they felt it put unnecessary pressure on the team as a whole.

Then, in an unexpected twist, Heinrichs

raised the matter in her locker-room speech before kickoff against Germany. Her voice cracked with emotion as she repeated her words following the game.

"It's fitting for these players to go out on top," Heinrichs said. "We owe it to them."

Hamm, for one, was caught off guard. She had genuinely tried to stay focused on each game as it came, without thinking of how close she was to the end of her career.

"I had an emotional reaction," Hamm said. "Because you don't want it to be your last game. You're kind of putting it out of your mind, and then someone just puts it front and center."

The speech sure didn't hurt. The Americans dominated most of the game and were unlucky they didn't win it in regulation. The Germans' tying goal came on a shot from Isabell Bachor that deflected off Fawcett's hip two minutes into second-half injury time.

O'Reilly then had an open net in front of her early in overtime, but she rushed her shot and hit the post. A few minutes later, she and Fawcett missed a pair of easy, right-footed shots with an assist from Hamm.

It was an appropriate pass from old to young from a 32-year-old jetting superstar to a 19-year-old college student who was screaming Hamm's name as a fan just a few years ago.

"Her love for this game, and her love for this team, inspires us old bags a lot," Hamm said.

Hamm created the goal by moving in from the right flank, which drew the German defense her way. She said the maneuver was a result of studying tapes of last year's 3-0 loss to Germany in the World Cup semifinals, a sour defeat that had lingered on the Americans' minds all year. Germany went on to win the Cup and entered the Olympics ranked No. 1 in the world, a place the United States had held for so long.

Afterward, exhausted from 120 minutes of soccer, the Americans started to regroup. One more victory was needed to complete the Fab Five mission.

"It's not over," forward Abby Wambach said. "These women more than anybody know that."

U.S. upset on last-second goal in women's water polo semis

BY JOHN PYE

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Manuela Zanchi scored with two seconds left to give Italy a 6-5 upset victory over the world champion Americans on Tuesday in the semifinals in women's water polo.

The Italians advanced to the finals against Greece, a 6-2 winner over Australia later Tuesday.

The United States will face Australia for bronze in a rematch of the Sydney 2000 final won by the Aussies.

"I'm very shocked," said American Brenda Villa, part of the silver-medal squad four years ago. "I really thought we could hold them off. Our goal was the gold medal, but that's gone. We came here for a medal and we must finish that — only now it's for bronze."

The U.S. team went into the semifinal quite confident because it beat Italy in the world championships last year.

The Americans were leading this game 4-2 after three periods. The Italians rallied with two goals from Tania di Mario and another by Giuse Malato to move ahead 5-4.

Ellen Esten pulled the Americans even with 1:11 left, but Zanchi was left wide open to score from the left of the goal.

U.S. coach Guy Bevilacqua was shocked about a call in the last minute, when the Americans were penalized for an offensive foul.

He didn't comment on the decision, but said the result was devastating for his team.

"It's the Olympics. I think you should be really excited when it's all over, or you should be crushed — we're crushed," he said.

SPORTS



Top pick Rivers ends
holdout after Chargers,
QB close deal, Page 34

Gymnastics losing its grip

Competition ends with boos, whining over disputed gold

BY NANCY ARMOUR
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — American Paul Hamm is heading home, and he's taking his gold medal with him.

The South Koreans are still looking for someone to give them a duplicate medal to make up for the scoring error that cost their gymnast in the men's all-around. Not to be outdone, the Russians are lodging general protests with anybody who will listen, and some who won't.

Yes, the gymnastics competition may be over at the Athens Olympics, but the whining might keep going all the way to Beijing. "Truly in my heart, I believe that I am the Olympic champion. I don't feel as if I should be giving the medal back or another one should be awarded," Hamm said Tuesday before heading back to the United States.

"I enjoyed a lot of the Olympics," he added. "But once the controversy hit, I've been very stressed out."

No wonder. Hamm had one day to savor his accomplishment of being the first U.S. man to win the Olympic all-around title, winning with one of the most spectacular comebacks the sport has ever seen.

Then the International Gymnastics Federation admitted that its judges had made a mistake, giving Yang Tae-yung a 9.9 start value for his parallel bars routine when it should have been a 10.

Yang finished third, 0.049 points behind Hamm, who came back from 12th with two events left for the victory. But add in that extra 0.100, and Yang would have finished first and Hamm second.

Kim Dae-eun of South Korea would have won the bronze instead of silver.

FIG apologized for the mistake, and suspended the two judges who determined the start values — Benjamin Bango of Spain and Oscar Buitrage Reyes of Colombia — along with the judge who oversaw the panel, George Beckstead of the United States.



Paul Hamm waited 8½ minutes for a booing crowd to quiet down before performing his silver medal-winning high-bar routine.

But it could do nothing else, FIG President Bruno Grandi said.

"I don't have the possibility to change it," Grandi told The Associated Press. "Our rules don't allow it."

Which means forget about those negotiations between the South Koreans and the U.S. Olympic Committee, which said Monday it would be "willing to consider the notion" of a second gold medal. The International Olympic Committee won't go near that idea unless FIG requests it.

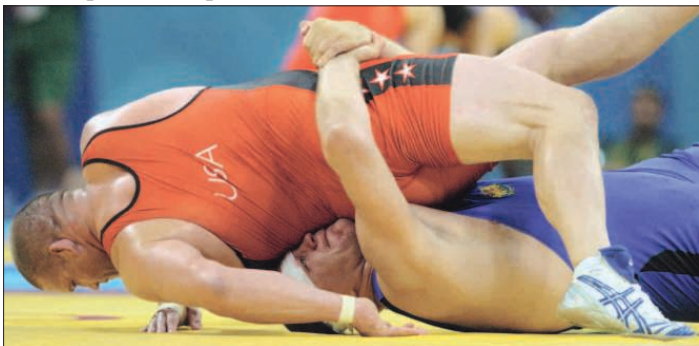
That leaves the South Koreans empty-handed, and still looking for satisfaction. They want a duplicate gold medal for Yang, and promised to take their case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

But they still hadn't filed an appeal as of Tuesday night.

"We don't have any updates today," said Jae Soon-yoo, an official for the South Korean delegation. "I can't give you a timeframe."

SEE GRIP ON PAGE 37

U.S. pins hopes on Gardner



Rulon Gardner of the USA, left, wrestles Bulgaria's Serguei Moreyko during a Greco-Roman super heavyweight elimination bout at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens on Tuesday. Gardner, the 2000 Olympic gold medalist, won all three matches to move into the semifinals.



Hayes
breaks
Olympic
record,
wins gold in
100-meter
hurdles

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Medal count				
Leaders after 197 medal events in the 2004 Olympics through Tuesday, Aug. 24:				
Country	G	S	B	Total
United States	25	28	19	72
China	24	16	12	51
Russia	9	18	21	48
Australia	14	9	14	37
Japan	15	8	9	32
Germany	9	10	13	31
France	9	7	9	25
Britain	7	8	7	22
Italy	8	6	7	21
South Korea	6	10	5	21

America's
boxing
medal
hopes
taking
beating
in Athens

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Lilly fans 13 as
Boston's streak
ends at six wins

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California reaches
semifinals
in Williamsport

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